

McCarthyism

Journal 23

What should our country's leaders be more focused on protecting – security of the nation or freedom of the nation's people? Why?

Finish the Potsdam Conference

Read the text, look for anything about “the long telegram” “Iran crisis” “Berlin airlift” “Creation of NATO”, iron curtain

The Truman Loyalty Review Program

September 1945- Igor Gouzenko defects from the Soviet Union with documents showing the Soviets were trying to infiltrate the government for information on the atomic bomb

Subversion- an effort to weaken a society and overthrow its government

Early 1947- Truman establishes a loyalty review program to screen federal employees and make sure that they're loyal to the United States

- Why would this be difficult?
- What would you use to determine whether or not someone was loyal?

The Truman Loyalty Review Program

Between 1947 and 1951, six million employees are screened

- 14,000 are further screened by the FBI
- 2,000 people are pressured into quitting their jobs
- 212 are fired for “questionable loyalty”

What books you read, what movies you watched, where you travelled, and what groups you belonged to were all considered

House Un-American Activities Committee

Formed in 1938 to investigate both communist and fascist activities in the U.S.

J. Edgar Hoover (director of the FBI) encouraged them to hold public hearings to find Communist sympathizers

The Hunt Begins

1947- The HUAC investigates the film industry, looking for Communist influence

- Why start there?

Ronald Reagan testifies that there are Communists in film

“Hollywood Ten”- 10 screenwriters who use their 5th Amendment rights and refuse to testify against themselves

- Were *blacklisted* for not cooperating
- Blacklist- A list of suspected Communists that producers agreed not to hire

Trials of the HUAC

Alger Hiss

- 1948- Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist, accuses Alger Hiss of giving out government secrets
- Hiss denies that he is a spy and that he even knows Chambers
- The committee is ready to leave the case, until Richard Nixon convinces them to continue
- Chambers produces papers, that proves he knew Hiss and Hiss is convicted of perjury

Trials of the HUAC

The Rosenbergs

- 1950- the FBI arrests Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for espionage
- They deny being spies, claiming that they were wrongly accused in the midst of anti-Communist furor in America
- They are executed in June 1953

McCarthyism

1949- Russia successfully tests an atomic bomb

1950- Wisconsin senator Joseph McCarthy claims to have a list of 205 state officials that are Communist

- The list never appears, even after the press asks to see it

McCarthyism- The practice of publicizing accusations of political disloyalty with little to no evidence

McCarthy was known for his sweeping accusations and being brutal in the courts

McCarthyism

The evidence for McCarthy's accusations was slim, at best

When he questioned witnesses, he would badger them and then refuse to accept their answers.

Eventually people get sick of his fear-mongering

- The last straw is when he starts hunting for Communists in the armed forces

The Senate passes a vote of censure, or formal disapproval

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The White House
Washington



1950 FEB 11 PM 7 31

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

IN A LINCOLN DAY SPEECH AT WHEELING THURSDAY NIGHT

I STATED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HARBORS A NEST OF COMMUNISTS AND COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS WHO ARE HELPING TO SHAPE OUR FOREIGN POLICY. I FURTHER STATED THAT I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION THE NAMES OF 57 COMMUNISTS WHO ARE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT. A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN

Draft

My dear Senator:

I read your telegram of February eleventh from Reno, Nevada with a great deal of interest and this is the first time in my experience, and I was ten years in the Senate, that I ever heard of a Senator trying to discredit his own Government before the world. You know that isn't done by honest public officials. Your telegram is not only not true and an insolent approach to a situation that should have been worked out between man and man but it shows conclusively that you are not even fit to have a hand in the operation of the Government of the United States.

I am very sure that the people of Wisconsin are extremely sorry that they are represented by a person who has as little sense of responsibility as you have.

Sincerely yours,

[HST]

~~McCarthy~~ ✓
file

Dot Activity Directions

You will participate in an activity in which you will form groups based on your secret identities

- You will each receive a piece of paper
 - Some are blank
 - Some have a dot drawn on them
 - There are fewer dots than non-dots
- When you receive your piece of paper you must secretly look at it. If you receive a dot you must not reveal it to anyone.
- When you are done looking hide it or put it in your pocket

Dot Activity Directions

- The goal of the activity is to form as large of a group of “non-dot” members as possible

Points:

- The largest group of “non-dot” students will win points
- The whole group will lose if there is one “dot” member in your group
- “Dot” members will win points for being the only dot in a group

Debrief Questions

Did anyone who wasn't a dot get accused of being a dot?

If you weren't a dot, how did you convince people to let you in their group?

How does this relate to American culture during the Cold War?



Exit Slip

On a half sheet of paper, answer the following two questions...

1. Why was the Red Scare so effective?
2. What does it mean “The fault... is not in our stars, but in ourselves?”

Turn it in to the basket when you finish!