

MACMUN 2026 - The Red Scare

Staff Letter

Dear Delegates,

As your Crisis Staff, Firdose, Ella, and Ava, we welcome you to McMaster Model United Nations (MACMUN) 2026! We are absolutely thrilled to present to you our brand new committee: The Red Scare. If you've ever wanted an opportunity to test your manipulation skills, now's your chance. Prepare yourself for a conference full of paranoia, deception, and secrets as you represent a variety of public figures in a fictional investigation adjacent to the McCarthy trials of the 1950s.

If you're concerned about lacking historical knowledge, please don't worry! While the crisis is rooted in a real historical situation, all delegate-represented characters (while sometimes based on real people) are completely fictional, meaning everything you need to know is in the background guide. While outside research is encouraged, it is not necessary to understand everything that's happening in the committee.

As students at McMaster, we come from a variety of different years and programs, including English, Global Peace and Social Justice (GPSJ), and Integrated Rehabilitation and Humanities (IRH). While we may come from different faculties and years, we are each so excited to join together to make your experience as enjoyable, engaging, and enriching as possible. If you have any questions, want any clarification, or want to make any suggestions, please reach out to us – we'd love to hear from you!

We are so incredibly excited to see the debates you engage in, ideas you come up with, and characters you bring to life. The McCarthy trials were such an interesting part of history, and we are certain you will enjoy capturing the true nature and emotion that came with the Red Scare. Going into this committee, we suggest you remember to *hope for the best and prepare for the worst, keep your friends close and your enemies closer, and keep your wits about you*. Most importantly, we ask you to keep in mind the magnificent proverb that has guided humanity for generations:

Better dead than red.

Your Red Scare Staff,
Ava, Ella, and Firdose.

Committee Mission

Recent communist accusations against a variety of notable public figures have led to widespread fear among the public. People have begun doubting their neighbours, friends, and family. Now, they have begun doubting you.

You and your fellow delegates – a mix of socialites, politicians, businesspeople, and industry professionals – have been gathered in the Senate for an investigation. Searching for high-profile communists in the nation, you are all tasked with questioning and scrutinizing your peers. McCarthy has publicly revealed that [two] individuals present in the investigation are members of the Communist Party, and it is more than possible that other delegates are sympathetic to their cause. These individuals could be of great threat to the United States, and the public demands you protect everyone by identifying them.

There may be, however, a greater threat at hand. While public identifications and trials may have helped accurately neutralize threats like the Rosenbergs and Alger Hiss, countless innocent careers and lives have been destroyed to get where we are today. Every statement, each allegation and arraignment, adds to the pool of everyday civilians and well-intentioned dignitaries who will now and forever be labelled ‘commies’ and traitors. The intensity of both the accusations and the backlash are dramatically rising, making it increasingly difficult to recover from a false allegation.

Now, you and your fellow delegates have come to a crossroads where you must decide where your priorities and loyalties lie. It is your duty as an American to protect your nation. It is your

duty as a citizen to protect your neighbours. And, it is your duty as an animal to do whatever it takes to protect yourself.

Regardless of where you stand, you must fight with everything you have to defend what is right. And remember, above all else: the nation does not look favourably upon collaborationists.

HISTORY SECTION

Pre-World War I & International Issues

The first Red Scare happened in the wake of World War I, marking the rise of the Communist party. The 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia had established the world's first communist government, inspiring socialist and workers' movements worldwide.¹ In the United States, returning soldiers faced unemployment, labor strikes spread across major industries, and anarchist bombings fueled public anxiety. These factors, alongside the formation of the Communist Party USA in 1919, created the perception that revolution could reach American soil.²

The government's response was swift and repressive. Under the leadership of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, the Palmer Raids targeted suspected radicals, often violating civil liberties in the name of national security.³ Thousands were arrested without proper warrants, and hundreds of immigrants were deported. Newspapers amplified hysteria, portraying immigrants, unionists,

¹"Red Scare: Definition, Cold War & Facts," History.com, October 16, 2025, <https://www.history.com/articles/red-scare>.

² College of Business Victor G. Devinatz Distinguished Professor of Management, "Communist Party of the United States of America," Encyclopædia Britannica, October 7, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Communist-Party-of-the-United-States-of-America>.

³ Gregory Dehler, "Palmer Raids," *Encyclopædia Britannica*, April 19, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Palmer-Raids>.

and leftist intellectuals as threats to democracy. This period set the stage for a culture of suspicion and conformity that would resurface in the later Second Red Scare of the Cold War era.

The American fear of communism was not confined to domestic politics; it was deeply shaped by international developments. The success of the Soviet Union in consolidating power under Lenin and later Stalin transformed communism from an ideology into a global political force.⁴ The US saw this as a direct challenge to capitalism, democracy, and its global influence.

Additionally, the postwar period brought instability in Europe and Asia. The rise of socialist movements in Germany, Hungary, and Italy raised alarms that communism was spreading rapidly.⁵ Economic hardships, inflation, and class unrest after WWI made such movements more appealing to the working class, increasing fears that America could follow suit.⁶

This global tension coincided with the broader ideological divide: capitalism and individual liberty versus state control and collectivism. The US government and media framed communism as inherently un-American, associating it with atheism, dictatorship, and the loss of personal freedom. This perception would only deepen after WWII, when the US and Soviet Union emerged as superpowers locked in ideological opposition, laying the groundwork for the Cold War and the Second Red Scare.

⁴ "Communism Timeline." History.com, September 29, 2025. <https://www.history.com/articles/communism-timeline>.

⁵ Richard Dagger, Professor of Political Science, Arizona State University, Arizona State University Terence Ball Emeritus Professor of Political Science, and All. "Communism." Encyclopædia Britannica, October 2, 2025. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/communism>.

⁶ "Red Scare: Definition, Cold War & Facts." [History.com](https://www.history.com)

Rise of McCarthyism

Shortly post-war, the fear of a communist infiltration hit the United States' government in a period of mass hysteria. In 1946, Republican Joseph McCarthy was elected as Wisconsin's representative in the U.S. Senate, following his service in the U.S. Marine Corps during the war.⁷ Leveraging the public's building fear, Senator McCarthy made a speech in Wheeling, WV on February 9th, 1950, claiming that 205 communists had secretly infiltrated the State Department.⁸ This allegation sent both the United States into outrage, desperate to identify these individuals and remove them from power as quickly as possible. Less than a month later, the Senate established the Foreign Relations Subcommittee, dedicated to investigating McCarthy's accusations.⁹ He was unable to produce a single name when the subcommittee requested he testify to his claims, he was more than capable of continuing his push for government investigation.

In late March 1950, charges began rolling out for alleged communists in the State Department. Former department adviser Owen Lattimore was quickly identified and singled out, made an easy target by his political involvement in international affairs, especially those involving the now communist China. McCarthy accused Lattimore of being a top Soviet spy, destroying Lattimore's career and reputation.¹⁰ With such rampant fear stirring in the government, the

⁷ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Joseph McCarthy," Encyclopædia Britannica, October 9, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-McCarthy>.

⁸ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Joseph McCarthy".

⁹ "Senator Joseph McCarthy Timeline," Senator Joseph McCarthy Timeline // Archives // Raynor Library // Marquette University, accessed October 31, 2025, <https://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/cdm/JRM/index.php>.

¹⁰ "Public Learns Joseph McCarthy Named Owen Lattimore as a Soviet Spy | March 26, 1950," History.com, May 27, 2025,

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/march-26/mccarthy-charges-that-owen-lattimore-is-a-soviet-spy>.

Senate also established the Internal Security Subcommittee in June 1950¹¹ to assist McCarthy in investigating and exposing members of the Communist Party in various government departments.¹²

While the aforementioned subcommittees were both utilized, McCarthy had countless other panels he used in his anti-communist crusade. The Senate Committee on Government Operations and Investigations (chaired by McCarthy following his re-election into the Senate in 1952), for example, brought forth a wide array of accusations against public servants, teachers/scholars, and prominent figures in the media.¹³ While no accusation or trial definitively proved anyone to be a communist, the negative attention that came with an allegation was enough to obliterate a person's career.

While McCarthy began his second Senate term, a new president entered the White House. Republican leader Dwight Eisenhower, despite his nonconfrontational approach to the matter, held clear animosity towards McCarthy.¹⁴ While Eisenhower remained silent on the topic, McCarthy continued to push¹⁵ beginning investigations in the Treasury and the army, expanding McCarthyism's influence across countless United States institutions.¹⁶

¹¹ Marquette University. n.d. "Senator Joseph McCarthy Timeline." Marquette University. Accessed November 2, 2025. <https://www.marquette.edu/library/archives/cdm/JRM/index.php>.

¹² "Senator Joseph McCarthy Timeline," Senator Joseph McCarthy Timeline.

¹³ Martin, Roland, and Paul J. Achter. 2025. "Red Scare | Definition, U.S. History, & Causes." Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Red-Scare-politics>.

¹⁴ Martin, Roland, and Paul J. Achter. 2025. "Red Scare | Definition, U.S. History, & Causes."

¹⁵ Martin, Roland, and Paul J. Achter. 2025. "Red Scare | Definition, U.S. History, & Causes."

¹⁶ Wisconsin Historical Society. n.d. "Joseph R. McCarthy Career Timeline." Wisconsin Historical Society. Accessed November 2, 2025. <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS3935>.

Social and Institutional Implications

The Red Scare also had broad social implications across America. Aside from politicians and government workers, there were teachers, Hollywood actors, producers, and everyday people who were not safe from being blacklisted. A Red Scare specialist at Yeshiva University calculates that over 10,000 Americans lost their jobs after not cooperating with investigations or being accused of being communists; furthermore, for each who lost their job, an estimated five to ten resigned proactively.¹⁷ Contrast this to the 5 million federal loyalty forms filled out that led to five to six hundred people being fired or not hired, and the fear for everyday Americans becomes significant.¹⁸ In 1947, the HUAC (House of Un-American Activities Committee) began investigating Hollywood. Many individuals were subpoenaed for suspected communist ties, and ten such individuals refused to testify in court; this led to their indictment and a brief imprisonment. The real punishment came afterward, when Hollywood studios stopped supporting the actions of these individuals, resulting in their blacklisting. They became known as ‘The Hollywood Ten’ and after the 1947 incident, the HUAC would continue to target members of the film industry. This often led to people accusing others, henceforth creating a culture of paranoia and fear in Hollywood; if you didn’t comply with the HUAC and attempted to look out for yourself and your career, you would be easily blacklisted.¹⁹

Famously, Charlie Chaplin, while not among the Hollywood Ten, still met the end of his career partly due to McCarthyism. McCarthy’s ‘list’ created a culture of fear and suspicion in America,

¹⁷ Tye, Larry. 2020. “Nathan Pusey’s battle with Joseph McCarthy.” *The Harvard Gazette*. <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/07/mccarthys-brush-with-harvard-examined-in-new-book-de-magogue/>.

¹⁸ Wayne State Law School. n.d. “Senator McCarthy’s Oversight Abuses.” Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy. Accessed November 2, 2025. <https://levin-center.org/joe-mccarthys-oversight-abuses/>.

¹⁹ Perlman, Allison. 2025. “Hollywood blacklist | History, Effect on Society, & Facts.” *Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hollywood-blacklist>.

as anyone ‘could’ be a communist; families turned on each other if accused, and any hint of deviance was questioned. In the past, being a socialist in America wasn’t as polarizing and dangerous a position; there was even a socialist party that gained traction in certain regions.²⁰ If Americans who were investigated under the HUAC invoked the Fifth Amendment (the right to remain silent), McCarthy took this as an admission of guilt which proved communist ties.²¹ Education was not exempt from this form of paranoia, and Harvard University faculty were at the receiving end of McCarthy’s blacklisting techniques. Including those as influential as Harvard’s 24th president, Nathan Pusey, many individuals were investigated, grilled, and sometimes even blacklisted by the HUAC, some named explicitly by McCarthy.

This culture persevered across the country. At Columbia University, a survey of approximately 2,500 faculty revealed that nearly half were scared of the ‘witch hunts’.²² But perhaps most famously, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were two US civilians who were executed for espionage. They were members of the communist party and had turned over Manhattan Project information to the Soviet Union, allegedly assisting them in creating their nuclear bombs. Interestingly, and reflective of the time, Ethel’s role was exaggerated by her brother to protect his wife from prosecution.²³ Everyone from your neighbors, to Hollywood stars, to healthcare leaders, to senators could have been a communist. Tensions and paranoia were high, and everyone was watching...

²⁰ Gregory, James. 2006. “Socialist Party of America History and Geography.” Mapping American Social Movements Project. https://depts.washington.edu/moves/SP_intro.shtml.

²¹ Wayne State Law School. n.d. “Senator McCarthy’s Oversight Abuses.”

²² Tye, Larry. 2020. “Nathan Pusey’s battle with Joseph McCarthy.”

²³ Jenkins, Philip. 2025. “Julius and Ethel Rosenberg | Biographies & Facts.” Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Julius-Rosenberg-and-Ethel-Rosenberg>.

Current Situation



SUBPOENA

Honourable delegate, this is your official notice that you must appear in Washington, D.C., to testify in a congressional committee hearing.

On February 16, 1955, you are required to be sworn into the Senate, before the citizens of America, in the name of justice and the pursuit of investigating all possible traitors to our nation.

Senator McCarthy has reached his boiling point and is insisting on investigating, trying, and convicting every suspected communist or communist sympathizer in the nation. You have been identified as an individual crucial to the trial and are expected to aid the Senate in its noble mission to preserve national security.

There is no tolerance for being defiant or passive in this investigation. Those who submit themselves to a thorough trial and assist in the prosecution of Reds will be looked favourably upon by the Senate. Work with us, and we will work with you.

The Senate Permanent Committee on Investigations has it on good authority that at least two individuals called to the courthouse are undercover members of the Communist Party. It is pivotal that you audit – or defend yourself from – these accusations.

These proceedings will be televised and anything you say and do in court, or have said and done in the past, can and will be used against you. We know you have something to hide.

Crisis Mechanics

As an unconventional committee, this crisis has a couple of minor mechanics to more accurately reflect the pressures and stakes that came with being a public figure during the Red Scare. Listed below are brief descriptions of the mechanics that will be present during the committee.

Crisis-Represented Characters

To maintain fairness within the conference, there are two characters that are relevant to the conference that will not be represented by delegates. These two characters are Joseph McCarthy (the current Senator of Wisconsin and spearheader of the investigation) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (the current U.S. president). To prevent a power imbalance, these characters will be represented by Crisis.

Delegates can communicate with McCarthy and Eisenhower through notes to the crisis staff. To properly articulate who is being contacted, address the character in the heading of your note (e.g. “To: McCarthy (Crisis)”).

Suspicion Rating

As a dignitary in a fully-televised investigation, the public is bound to form impressions of what they think of you. The suspicion rating, as its name suggests, is a grade of how much American citizens suspect you of being a communist.

Before the conference, all delegates will be given a rating of 0-100, with 0 meaning absolutely no one suspects a thing and 100 meaning the people have unanimously concluded that you are a

communist. If a delegate reached a rating of 100, their career would be completely destroyed (which, in this case, is similar to what “dying” would be in a war-based committee).

As delegates make directives, give speeches, or essentially do anything publicly, their suspicion rating will change to reflect the opinions of the public. Delegates currently under scrutiny or “in the hot seat” will see an increase in their suspicion rating, regardless of whether they are actually a communist. Their rating will slowly decline the longer they avoid inspection. Delegates are highly encouraged to point fingers to deflect the discussion and avoid the hot seat.

All delegates will be able to see each others’ suspicion ratings.

Secrets

Prior to the conference, each delegate will receive a private message revealing a major secret held by their character. Delegates are responsible for safeguarding their secrets and ensuring no one discovers or reveals them.

Two delegates hide the secret that they are indeed communists

With each secret comes a corresponding number indicating how much their suspicion rating will increase if their secret becomes public. Delegates are encouraged to safeguard their secrets regardless of how much it being revealed will affect their suspicion, as it allows delegates to stay more true to their characters and their motivations.

Delegates can access another delegate's secret by running private investigations via private directives. After providing Crisis with an elaborate enough plan to discover it, they will be provided with evidence of another delegate's wrongdoings.

There are varying factors that will determine a delegate's success in obtaining a secret. Directives submitted by multiple delegates or with delegates who use their career to their advantage will be more successful in their plans (for example, the Secretary of Finance will have better luck obtaining financial records than, say, a musician), however all delegates are capable of obtaining evidence regardless of their role.

Additionally, Crisis will become more picky with which plans they accept as the committee progresses, so ensure you strategize well!

We understand these may be confusing, especially if this is your first time in a committee with crisis mechanics. If you have any questions or need any clarification, do not hesitate to reach out to the crisis staff!

Character List

Paul Dawson, Lawyer

Dawson has worked hard to make a name for himself and is one of the most revered (and feared) prosecutors in the nation. His prowess was well noted by McCarthy, who requested that Dawson be one of the attorneys investigating and convicting suspected communists. Dawson values loyalty above all else. He has no mercy for traitors and is ready to do anything he can to get a

conviction. Despite their strong ideological differences, Dawson has always had a close and supportive relationship with his sister, Elouise Dawson.

Jeremy Stevens, Secretary of State

A loyal member of Eisenhower's administration, Stevens is the United States Secretary of State, responsible for overseeing international affairs and foreign policy. Still trying to recuperate the United States' global relationships after World War II, Stevens is swamped with managing foreign negotiations and agreements. His duty towards preserving federal documents and maintaining diplomatic operations makes Stevens a great associate to Eisenhower, and a questionable and possibly untrustworthy adversary to McCarthy. Stevens wants to protect the people within the country from accusations, while ensuring no sensitive or confidential government documents are exposed during the trial.

Bruce Russel, Secretary of Treasury

Russel is calm, calculating, and strategic. He thinks that while people should be wary of communist influence on America, McCarthy and his supporters have taken things too far. He believes the widespread increase in public panic is leading to instability throughout the nation – especially in the U.S. market. He believes it makes the U.S. look politically unstable to outside nations too, which will inevitably make the nation look more vulnerable to exploitation. Although he doesn't agree with McCarthy, he thinks starting a public fight will only antagonize McCarthy and arouse suspicion about the administration. Instead, Russel believes in a slow and simple solution: quietly and gradually discrediting McCarthy, eventually removing him from power, and eliminating his influence entirely.

Henry Allen, Iowa Senator

Allen is not new to conflict, and he isn't new to the doings of McCarthy either. A Marine Corps veteran, Allen served in the Fourth Marine Division — the same one McCarthy was assigned to. Both senators served in this division together until the end of the war, when they were released. The two have formed a strong friendship, especially after Allen followed in McCarthy's footsteps and became the Senator from Iowa. Allen has a strong sense of loyalty towards McCarthy, who trusts Allen greatly. While Allen may not have McCarthy's publicity, they share a dedication towards the protection of the nation and the uncovering and exposure of every possible communist that threatens it.

Judy Smith, Journalist

New to the scene, Smith is a young journalist ready to write and eager to make connections in the political sphere. Fresh from her apprenticeship in a small newsroom, Smith has finally clawed their way up to becoming an official, publishable journalist. Now, she's ready to put years of finely-honed writing and persuasive skills to work. While she may not know anyone yet, Smith is prepared to jump on any cause that'll give her the chance to grow her name and influence. What gives better publicity than refuting — or releasing — a major scandal?

Conrad French, Secretary of Commerce

The last 3 years have been very conflicting for French. Naturally, he opposes the values these alleged communists hold, and there's nothing he wants less than for the ideology to become adopted in the United States. However, the recent cultural and reputational shift in public sector jobs has become a cause of concern for French. With countless workers being publicly

destroyed, harassed, and shamed out of their jobs, French worries for the future of the market under these conditions. He hopes to come up with a way to protect as many jobs as possible, while still asserting the importance of the U.S.'s libertarian economy.

James Abbott, Lawyer

Abbott is one of the very few brave enough to have publicly refuted McCarthy. While some see him as a suspicious figure, many vulnerable public figures see him as the man to go to when they're on the brink of reputational ruin. Though Abbott has been able to save a couple of careers and protect a few people from convictions so far, he won't be able to keep it up long. Until Eisenhower and his administration start denouncing McCarthy and taking definitive action, Abbott and the countless suspects targeted by McCarthy will be stuck in an uphill battle that will inevitably end in defeat.

Elouise Dawson, Celebrity Musician

A famous musician, Elouise had her big break post-war. But Elouise is more than just an entertainer - she's an activist, using her large platform to spread awareness and call their audience to action. While she is most well-known for her performances, Elouise has also recently begun advocating for civil rights – especially for equality under the law and the rights of workers. Elouise is prepared to use her platform to fight the blacklist and advocate for those facing unfounded political accusations. Her political stance very starkly contrasts that of her brother, Paul. Despite this, they don't let it dampen their close friendship. Elouise looks up to Paul, and Paul does everything he can to support Elouise's career and growth.

Luigi Russo, New Jersey Senator

For Russo, this is personal. When the Red Scare first began, he was adamant on remaining neutral and waiting out the temporary period of panic to preserve their position as the senator of New Jersey. However, neutrality rarely leads to ideal conclusions. Six months prior to the trial, Russo was publicly accused of being a sympathizer, bringing his career to an immediate halt. His reputation had been almost completely destroyed, leaving him to utilize the little credibility he had left to defend his name. Through hard work, Russo was able to recover his image just enough to win re-election. Regardless of his efforts, the public never forgot about the accusation – and Russo hasn't forgotten, either. Russo will not rest until he gets retribution for McCarthy's accusations. McCarthy destroyed Russo's reputation – it's only fair McCarthy's reputation gets destroyed too, right?

Ronald Simms, Indiana Senator

Simms has never been more tired of a senatorial scandal in his life– which is saying a lot, considering he has been a Senator of Indiana for the last 14 years. Simms has been loyal to the United States' government for well over a decade, and is not willing to watch it fall into disrepair by the hands of McCarthy and his – as Simms describes it – “hokey-pokey kangaroo court.” Simms supports whatever plan is needed to get these trials over as quickly as possible. He does think, however, that the ideal solution is stopping the situation at its roots: by swiftly and effectively eliminating McCarthy's seat and influence. More than anything, Simms wants this to end, so the Senate can return to focusing on rebuilding and improving the nation post-war.

Arthur Columbus, Texas Senator

Columbus is a patriot through-and-through. As the senator of Texas, he works hard to uphold true, traditional American values, both in the Senate and in society. Columbus is incredibly worried about an infiltration of the West, and has been planning what needs to be done to stop it. He believes that there has been a concerning uptick in communists and sympathizers and that they need to be dealt with appropriately. To Columbus, exposing and public shame aren't harsh enough punishment for these traitors. In his ideal world, all sympathizers will be removed from the great nation, and even greater (more fatal) measures will be taken against those who conspire against true American values.

Deborah-Lynn "DL" Skeeter, Journalist

Skeeter is one of the biggest names in political journalism. She refers to her work as "an unfiltered insight into hidden American truths" (though some others would argue "political gossip rag" is a more accurate description). While she values truth (to some extent), Skeeter is not afraid to stretch the truth or fudge some details if it makes for a more captivating and convincing article. Recently, Skeeter has begun working with Senator McCarthy to publish exposés on public figures accused of involvement with the Communist Party. She is proud that her meaningful work is being used to serve and protect the nation.

Ernest Goodwin, Military General

Goodwin is a high-ranking general who earned his position through his dedicated service during the First and Second World Wars. He is displeased with his invitation and the suggestion that they could have possibly been implicated in these heinous acts, and also appalled at McCarthy's handling of the situation. They just want to go home after returning from the Korean War, and be with their loved ones after a long life away from home during service, dedicated to their country.

Robin Gilmore, Dean of Harvard

Robin has been an academic his entire life - all to get to this point of becoming the dean of Harvard University, an absolute honor and privilege. It's their second year in this position and already they've been put through a lot, with McCarthy at their throat. Despite all of this, they are fighting for academic integrity and freedom of thought in their institutions. He is openly doting on his wife, Mary Ellen, but has a nervous disposition that is chalked up to his academic recluse.

Edward Setarget, Union Leader

It's a tough time to be a union leader, especially in New York City. As the leader of the United Manufacturers of America (better known as the UMA), Setarget has been doing the best he can to safeguard the rights of the working person. But, with recent acts passed by Congress, it's become difficult to gain support. Labour unions have become huge targets of the current McCarthyist Senate, leading to many union organizations becoming incredibly fragile. Though Setarget has already signed his anti-communist oath, he and other union leaders have been under fire, receiving countless accusations surrounding involvement with the communist party. Setarget thinks that the recent accusations and upcoming trials are slowing the development of workers' rights in the United States.

Rosaline Jewel, A-List Actress

Jewel is America's biggest actress and a notorious diva. Her influence is incredibly wide-reaching, often sending them on flights to different countries for shows and shoots. Her connections in just about every country and industry make her a truly prominent figure in high society, with ties to worldwide celebrities and politicians alike. In light of McCarthy's hunt for

communists, Jewel wants nothing more than to dissolve the Hollywood Blacklist (or, at the very least, prevent the blacklist from reaching her). Willing to use every contact at her disposal, she's prepared to keep her reputation pristine, whether it's through pulling others down to pull herself up or through eliminating the Blacklist.

Jay Sutton, Hollywood producer

Sutton came to California with a dream, met the right people, and made it happen. He is a movie director, sharp, witty, and good at what he does. However, his fresh ideas have landed him some loud critics amid his new success. Postwar, Hollywood is America's playground, but with rising mistrust roaring throughout the industry and many of their colleagues being blacklisted, they are starting to feel like they could be next- unless they point to someone else.

Mary Ellen Gilmore, NEWC

Mary is a proud American and the president of the New England Women's Club. She has been very involved in anti-communist engagements since the beginning of the Red Scare, yet she staunchly disapproves of McCarthy's tactics as she views them as un-American. She cannot vocalize this, and feels like her involvement in this trial is a misuse of American resources. She otherwise advocates for children's health and women's civic involvement.. She is married to Robin Gilmore and is also involved in university happenings at Harvard.

Sylvia Wilson, City Council Candidate

Sylvia is in their early 20s and is a member of her local youth group. Born in 1930, the war is sharp in her memory, but the details are sharp due to the input of her grandfather, Clarence Wilson. She is running for local councilwoman, and she has the support of a sizable number;

however, there is a loud opposition to her being a woman and the ideas she platforms. She believes McCarthy is unjust, but doesn't know how she can express these views for the safety of her grandfather.

Clarence Wilson, Prominent Business Owner

Clarence remembers when America was truly the land of the free. Born in 1885, he's seen the United States through many of its political phases. He is a prominent business owner and runs a factory producing textiles on the East Coast. Capitalism has done him good. Prior to that, he was a soldier in both World Wars and is very patriotic.

Guiding Questions

1. In the United States and other nations in the West, how do individuals and institutions perceive unconventional ideologies like communism and socialism?
 - a. How do these perceptions impact our personal opinions and the relationships formed with others?
 - b. Is it valid to consider this when forming new associations, relationships, or partnerships?
2. What international and domestic events (both recent and historical) led to such widespread and radical fear across the nation?
 - a. How relevant were these to the average individual in the 1950s?
3. How many spies, criminals, or malefactors need to be present for you to deem their abundance worrisome?
 - a. At what point is it acceptable to step in?
 - b. What can or should be sacrificed for your own protection?

- c. Is it worth it to harm and inconvenience the innocent if it leads to the elimination of wrongdoers?
4. What traits are characteristic of someone who is a communist or communist sympathizer?
 - a. How common are these characteristics in the general population?
 - b. Are these characteristics inherently positive or negative?
 - c. Are these characteristics alone sufficient evidence to label someone a communist?
 5. What role does the media play in perpetuating misinformation and fear in society?
 - a. How could the televising of trials and investigations impact or sway the public's opinions?
 - b. What are the most efficient methods of spreading an ideology to a large audience?

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