

MCCARTHYISM REVISITED

In 1967 the Senate passed the new McCarran Act by a 3-2 vote (5 members present)

Since many provisions of the original McCarran Act, which gave legal status to Joe McCarthy's witch-hunts, had been overturned by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional, it is interesting to see how the new act circumvents these decisions:

1. A "Communist front" is redefined as an organization "dominated by one Communist."
2. In lieu of compulsory self-registration, a public list is to be kept of all people & groups which the Subversive Activities Control Board determines to be Communist action, front or infiltrated groups.
3. Provides for "immunity" against self-incrimination and an indeterminate jail sentence if a witness refuses to testify against his organization and its members.
4. Forbids court appeals until "trials" before SACB are completed.
5. Requires Communist labeling of literature, mailings, etc.
6. Authorizes mass trials for "Communists".
7. Empowers SACB to call for punishment for "misbehavior" near the site of SACB trials.
8. Permits SACB to make "Communist" findings of groups not represented.
9. Reaffirms law forbidding defense jobs for Communists.

On November 20, 1969, 3 Pittsburghers were among 10 people cited by the Attorney General as being members of the Communist Party. These are: Jim Fisher, a Black rank and file leader in the steel industry and his community; Joanne Gerber, a white student, active in the peace and civil rights movements; and Joe Fabrizio, a white shop steward in the electrical equipment industry. A federal district court has ruled that the entire procedure is unconstitutional and the SACB is appealing its case to the Supreme Court.

These actions, coupled with the Panther murders, are clearly designed to isolate the more radical elements of today's political movements. If the liberals and moderates withdraw because of the fear of being labeled "Communist" the radicals will be attacked harder, and all forms of protest and mass organizing will be stifled in an atmosphere of personal fear: fear for one's job, freedom, reputation and even life.

REMEMBER THE 50's? When the silent majority was the silenced majority? When McCarthyism had the support of prominent "liberal" senators? Radicals were deported more easily than the Mafia. Chaired, tenured professors competed with senators, hired journalists and Ronald Reagan to see who could produce the most misinformed slanders. During that period an unknown politician from California made it to the House by red-baiting his opponent and to the vice-presidency by witch-hunting everyone else. BY THE WILL OF MADISON AVENUE & THE GRACE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, THAT MAN IS NOW PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!