

Crisis: The Red Scare



JACKRABBIT MUN V

L.B. POLY - MAY 20th, 2023

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Dina Miranda and I am honored to be your co-head chair for Jackrabbit MUN V's Red Scare Crisis Committee! I am a senior and have been involved with Model UN since my freshman year; currently, I am lucky to serve as one of our Secretaries-General of our program.

Outside of MUN, I am co-drum major of Poly's Marching Unit, president of Creative Writing Club, and co-president of Poly Kaibigan, our school's Filipino club, while playing French horn in our Symphonic Winds and full orchestra ensembles. I also love knitting and beating my friends at the New York Times Daily Mini crossword puzzle. And this fall, I will be attending Northwestern University as an English and International Studies double major—go 'Cats!

Ever since taking APUSH as a sophomore, the Red Scare has intrigued me—it was the perfect storm of global post-WWII tensions, passionate ideological conflicts, widespread public paranoia and prejudice, and most importantly, the question of whom to trust. Though the crisis peaked in the 1950s and 1960s, its effects still reverberate throughout modern society—simply take a look at any political debate.

I am so excited to see all your ideas during committee! I am confident that, despite the twists and turns our crisis staff will throw at you, we will all have an amazing experience. I look forward to intelligent, fun debate and creative directives. Hopefully, we can achieve some calm in the eye of this storm...

Sincerely,

Dina Miranda

Red Scare Crisis Committee | Co-Head Chair

medinapmiranda@gmail.com



CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Greetings Delegates!

It is an honor to welcome you to Jackrabbit MUN V's Red Scare Crisis! My name is Katelyn Van Andel, one of your co-chairs and the Under-Secretary of Logistics for the Poly MUN program. As a Model UN enthusiast and an unapologetic history nerd, I could not be more excited to chair this committee and make Jackrabbit MUN V a memorable experience for you all!

To add a little bit about myself, I am currently a junior with two years of MUN experience. I love reading, drawing, and watching movies (*Everything Everywhere All At Once* is my current favorite). In school, history has always been an enjoyable topic for me, but it wasn't until my sophomore year APUSH class that I fell in love with it. This Red Scare Crisis is my passion project; it is my love letter to the study of the past and all the wonder it holds.

As for committee, I cannot wait to see the extent of your research, strategy, and determination. Our crisis team has so much in store for you...be ready for anything! Remember that cooperation is equally as important as conflict; it is unlikely that you will achieve your objectives without the collaboration of your fellow delegates. It is up to you to decide how the Red Scare will unfold! Please do not hesitate to email either Dina or myself, as we would be delighted to address any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Van Andel

Red Scare Crisis Committee | Co-Head Chair

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VICE CHAIR LETTER

Dear Acclaimed Delegates,

Hello and welcome to Jackrabbit MUN! My name is Janice Jung and I am currently a sophomore at Long Beach Poly. Last year I helped out with the snack booth, so being able to participate in the committee and watch everyone is going to be exhilarating! School wise, I am also part of our school's FRC robotics team—7042 Poly Rabbotics, and have been doing both robotics and MUN since freshman year. On a more personal note, I enjoy listening to R&B and playing games in my free time (personal favorites including Rainbow Six Siege, Omori, and Hearthstone).

I am enthralled to be your vice chair and watch you delegates employ tactics and ideas you have been slowly planning since very beginning. The chaotic nature of the Red Scare will hopefully lead to creative ideas and solutions which I cannot wait to see! Always remember to cooperate, have fun, and be communist... Wait what?!

Sincerely,

Janice Jung♡

Red Scare Crisis Committee | Vice Chair

Janice.jung373@gmail.com



RAPPORTEUR LETTER

Esteemed Delegates,

I am delighted to welcome you to Jackrabbit MUN V, as your Rapporteur. My name is Breanna Jackson and I am a senior at Long Beach Poly. This is my first year of involvement with Model UN (it is never too late to join!). I am so excited to watch as you all assist us in executing an exceptional crisis committee.

In addition to Model UN, I am a part of our varsity tennis team as well as our marching band. I enjoy writing and history, aligning with my excitement for this history-driven room. I will be attending the University of California, Santa Barbara in the fall to continue my academic journey.

I am thrilled to be a part of the staff for this Red Scare Crisis Committee and I look forward to hearing all of your creative ideas. I hope you all have a wonderful experience at our conference!

Sincerely,

Breanna Jackson

Red Scare Crisis Committee | Rapporteur

breannajackson027@gmail.com



CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

My name is Lauren Higuchi and I am excited to welcome you to Jackrabbit MUN V as your Crisis Director. My talented crisis staff and I have worked tirelessly to ensure that your crisis experience is the best it can be and we are eager to see what kinds of out-of-the-box things you can accomplish.

I am a senior here at Poly and closing out my second year in MUN. In addition to MUN, I am also captain of our robotics team and have recently led us to our first ever Regional Competition win and into the World Championships. I love historical fashion and birdwatching and often listen to Russian alt rock (shoutout to the Red Scare Room).

I am extremely proud of all three of our crisis rooms and know that I will be in awe of your creativity, cunningness, and cooperation. Once again, welcome to Jackrabbit MUN V, I hope you all have a fantastic time!

Lauren Higuchi

Long Beach Poly Model UN | Crisis Director

laurenhiguchi123@gmail.com



CRISIS LEAD LETTER

Dear Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to Jackrabbit MUN V! My name is Tirisa Sokpania Noun, a junior at Long Beach Poly, and I am excited to be your Crisis Lead for the Red Scare Crisis Room. As a history buff and someone who loves the crazy, riveting crisis committees, I hope that Jackrabbit MUN V's Red Scare Committee will knock your socks off!

Aside from being in Model United Nations, I play linebacker for the Girls Flag Football team and I am the Social Media Manager for both football teams as well! In my freetime, you would probably catch me on the field (either playing football, taking pictures, or interviewing high school prospects) or playing games with my friends online: APEX, Overwatch, Sea of Thieves, just to name a few.

I am quite excited to meet all of your personalities through the twists and turns of crisis. I have never met a more dedicated and creative group of people (who may be on the CIA watch list...unfortunately due to our researching process... shh) and I hope you are excited to be thrown back into the 50s! Have fun and be careful!

Kind Regards,

Tirisa Sokpania Noun

Red Scare Crisis Committee | Crisis Lead

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POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Wednesday, May 17** in order to receive feedback and be eligible for **research AND committee awards.**
- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Friday, May 19** in order to be eligible for **committee awards ONLY.**
- Position Papers can be submitted through the committee email:
 - **redscarejackrabbit2023@gmail.com.**
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
 - Charlie Chaplin
 - First Last
 - School Name
 - Crisis: Red Scare
- Papers should be emailed as a PDF file.
 - Paper content should also be copied and pasted into the body of the email so it can still be graded in the event of technical difficulties
 - Please name the file and email subject line [Committee_ Character Name]
 - Ex. **Crisis_RedScare_CharlieChaplin**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages single-spaced with additional Works Cited pages in MLA format.
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics.
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background
 - Position of your Character
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email your respective chairs.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

When a little-known Wisconsin Senator named Joseph McCarthy held up a list of what he claimed to be 205 known Communists in the State Department during a speech in 1950, no one could have predicted the drastic consequences that followed. McCarthy's famous list marked the beginning of an era of national fear of Communist subversion, also known as the Red Scare. The Red Scare of the 1950s became an era of chaos: labor unions infiltrated, civil rights leaders denounced, Hollywood stars blacklisted, wild accusations thrown around, some with deathly repercussions.

On the surface, everyone is working toward the same goal: rooting out Communists and restoring the trust of the American people in both their neighbors and their government. However, be wary; the intentions of those around are more questionable than they seem. As delegates, your job is to hold an increasingly hysterical America together. Will you hunt out the Communist spies hiding among us, or will you fall victim to a complete takeover of the Soviet Union? Where is the line drawn between personal liberty and national security? Who is the real enemy? Welcome to the Red Scare.



INTRODUCTION

The Red Scare (1947–1957) was an era of hysteria, chaos, and prejudice. The events of the time were complex and interconnected—far from being exclusively political. Hollywood stars, labor union leaders, civil rights activists, and ordinary citizens became entangled in America’s collective fear of communism. Equally as critical, the era saw a national dispute over privacy, democracy, and political repression.

The roots of the Red Scare can be traced to the aftermath of World War II. During the war, the Soviet Union and the U.S. hesitantly allied against the common enemy of Nazi Germany. After the war, leaders of the “Big Three,” Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, and Joseph Stalin (of the UK, US, and USSR respectively) met at the Potsdam Conference (1945) to discuss postwar peace. Potsdam marked the beginning of Soviet–American tension and set the stage for the Cold War, a battle for global influence of the two powers’ respective ideologies.

As the rivalry unfolded, widespread fear of communist subversion developed in America. In 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy’s speech—where he claimed that 205 Communists had infiltrated the State Department—marked the beginning of a decade-long period of political chaos. Society became increasingly conservative. The fear of being outed or suspected as a Communist was shared across all classes. As delegates, it is imperative that you acknowledge the intersection of social, political, and foreign influences during the 1950s. Consider the motives of those around you as well as your own; how will you use the chaos of the Red Scare to your advantage?



TOPIC BACKGROUND

In 1949, the Soviet Union tested their first nuclear weapon, cementing their status as the opposition to the United States. This was the end of American isolationism. An age of interventionism, the Cold War, had begun. The Cold War led to vilification and suppression of the opposing side, both in the Soviet Union and in the United States, manifesting in the form of the Second Red Scare.

US GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

American government involvement in the quelling of Communist ideology during the Red Scare was no less than an all-encompassing wall of strict legislature and aggressive policy.

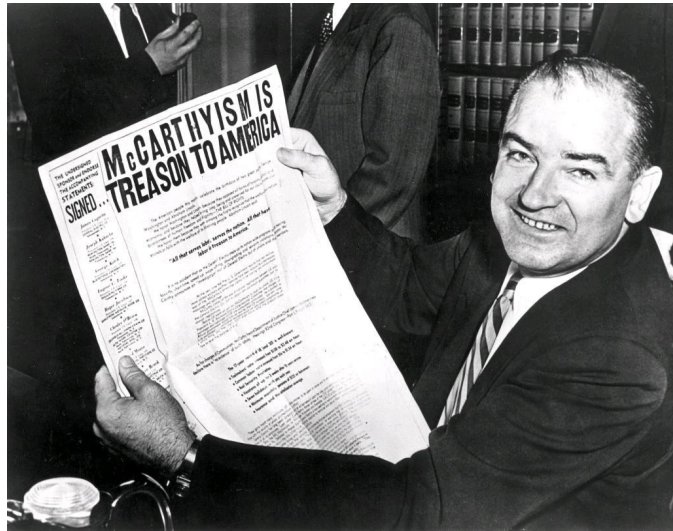
Established in 1908 as a group of independent federal investigators, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was created to enforce federal law and judicial policy. Throughout the first Red Scare crisis, the FBI attempted to regulate and control opposition to the mainstream political, economic, and social order, often crediting strikes and race riots to communists. Their involvement was pivotal, as it led to waves of mass hysteria regarding anti-communism in the United States.



In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was founded to stamp out potential communist activity. Given the power to blacklist or fire government employees, HUAC divided the country, raising the question: is this necessary for national security or is it infringing upon personal liberties?



Around the same time, Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy was gaining public traction through McCarthyism—the practice of publicly accusing federal government employees suspected to be associated with communism with inadequate evidence to support said accusations. On February 9th, 1950, the Senator’s speech sent shockwaves through Washington.



SOCIAL & LABOR MOVEMENTS

The lack of a strong labor movement in the United States can be traced back to the First Red



Scare; anti-communist paranoia led to the systematic persecution of labor unions, such as the Industrial Workers of the World and their leaders. Anyone suspected of socialist sympathies was a “traitor.” Despite these obstacles, unions persisted, with help from the National Industrial Recovery and Wagner Acts, which codified the right of workers to unionize.

During WWII, union membership more than doubled (from 7 to 14.5 million). Two major unions dominated the field: the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and the American Federation of Labor (AFL). The CIO was born out of a split with the AFL over the inclusion of unskilled workers and was considered slightly more inclusive because they accepted industrial, unskilled workers. These two unions used to be staunch rivals, but around 1950, their similarities resulted in some talk of a merger.



In 20th century America, African-Americans were the subject of intense racial discrimination and violence. A few intellectuals in the North, including W.E.B Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, and Booker T. Washington, presented different visions for the future of African-Americans. Du Bois co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Booker T. Washington created many community organizations that helped African-Americans, but was a controversial figure, as his public statements were considered accommodationist towards white supremacy.

By today, African-Americans have gained more agency, particularly economically. Organizations such as the NAACP are crusading at home against racial segregation. But what comes next? There are many African-Americans who are involved in labor or even communist movements, but most African-Americans are committed to the New Deal vision economically, and equality and civil rights socially.

FOREIGN POLICY & INFLUENCES

Cuba is a flawed democracy at America's doorstep. Though Cuba is still a staunch American ally, allegations of corruption under Ramón Grau San Martín have created a volatile political climate. If the situation deteriorates, should the United States intervene as dictated in the Platt Amendment, even though the Cuban government refuses to recognize it?

In response to the Soviet threat, as demonstrated by the Berlin Airlift, the United States and its Western European allies formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949. Under the NATO treaty, an attack on one member is considered an attack on all. The



organization provides for joint military planning and cooperation and established a



permanent military command structure. To counter this, the Soviets formed the Warsaw Pact, an alliance of many Eastern and Central European countries, which provided a similar basis for cooperation.

PARANOIA, PROPAGANDA, AND SOCIETY

Of course, the Red Scare also affected American society on a broad level— ideological divides wormed their way into everything from media to schools to gender and sexual norms, resulting in increased



paranoia and discrimination toward marginalized groups. The term “Lavender Scare” was used during this era to refer to the mass dismissal of lesbian and gay government employees from their positions. Gay men and lesbians were seen as national security risks and “communist sympathizers;” they were also considered as more prone to

outside manipulation.

Anti-communist paranoia was also prevalent in the entertainment industry; the infamous Hollywood Blacklist forced many entertainment professionals out of their jobs after HUAC-led hearings accused these figures of



communist affiliation. Of these, the “Hollywood Ten” refused to answer any of HUAC’s questions about their political associations, cementing their reputations as staunch defiers of McCarthyist paranoia.

At this point, television has begun to replace newspapers and radio, resulting in HUAC’s influence and paranoia expanding to most American homes. Long before McCarthy stepped onto the political stage, William Randolph Hearst paved the way for



anti-communist crusading through his monopolization of more than 30 news companies, including affiliates of NBC and ABC, in the 1930s. His flamboyant “yellow journalism” laid the foundation for the modern media, and his empire is still quite influential, thanks

to his son. These societal factors will determine where the allegiance of the masses lies, and are key to any prospective leader’s plans. But as Machiavelli wrote, “people are by nature fickle, and it is easy to persuade them of something, but difficult to keep them persuaded.” Beware!



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The start date of this committee is February 10th, 1950, the day after McCarthy's famous "enemies within" speech. As delegates, you will receive various crisis updates throughout committee, where our dais or crisis staff will deliver new information pertinent to the events of committee. Time jumps may occur. Since this committee begins in 1950, we understand that critical events within several character's lives may not have occurred yet. Nonetheless, please abide by your character's original historical timeline. We recommend making a basic timeline for your character that you can refer to during debate.

When it comes to directives, we allow group, personal, and committee directives, as well as communiques and press releases. These directives will be collected by a Google Form, and responses will be conveyed through a virtual crisis notebook, allowing ease of both submission and response and a faster flow of committee.

Because the Red Scare was such a multi-faceted issue, topics covered in committee could range from entertainment, foreign policy, law and order, federal investigations, and beyond. We acknowledge that certain characters may not have extensive knowledge of all topics, such as a Hollywood actor being unfamiliar with the specifics of labor unions. Therefore, it is recommended that delegates have a general understanding of these various topics regardless, and use the character's general values to navigate their stances on specific issues. For example, a labor union leader who has communist sympathies and opposes federal investigations may not be directly involved in issues surrounding the Hollywood Ten, but given the character's values, they will likely support the director/actor being accused in committee debate.



CHARACTER BIOGRAPHIES

Governor Adlai Stevenson II

The current Governor of Illinois, Adlai Stevenson II is one of the rising stars of the Democratic Party. He is considered one of the most effective governors in the United States and has a reputation for eloquent speech. But, he is also sometimes considered out of touch with the ordinary American. He also served on the committee that created the United Nations and has much respect abroad. Can Stevenson capitalize on his standing in the Democratic Party to secure a higher office?

Ambassador Aleksandr Panyushkin

Aleksandr Panyushkin is the current Soviet ambassador to the United States. He began his career in service to the Soviet Union in the Red Army at age 15, advancing through the ranks of the Army at a steady pace. He was eventually moved to civil service and appointed as the ambassador to Nationalist China from 1939-1944. He then became ambassador to the United States. Panyushkin's past and future are cloaked in shadows. His inclusion in this committee is ostensibly to advocate for Soviet citizens and ensure they receive equal treatment, but only he knows his true motives.

Allen Dulles

A New York Republican and the deputy director of plans of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Allen Dulles joined the Office of Strategic Services during WWII. Dulles acquitted himself well during the war, working with many German spies to uncover information about the doings of Nazi Germany. After the war, he was promoted to deputy director of plans, a high-level position within the CIA. He has



access to top-secret info and can gain foreign intelligence comparatively easily. The CIA-FBI rivalry is strong; both departments jockey for influence, particularly in high-profile cases. Those who catch the culprits get the glory, while the other departments often are forgotten. Who will use this time of paranoia more effectively?

Charlie Chaplin

Charlie Chaplin is one of the most well-known actors in America. Though audiences adore him, his political leanings and personal life draw much scrutiny. In 1944, he was named by the FBI in four cases relating to an affair, and the subsequent scandal damaged his public image. Due to the trial, a paternity suit under suspicious circumstances, and overwhelmingly negative media coverage, he took a break for two years. In 1946, he began filming *Monsieur Verdoux*, a dark comedy which criticized capitalism and war. The film was positively received abroad but failed in the United States because of its supposed communist leanings. Chaplin also supported some Soviet-American friendship groups; the FBI opened an official investigation into him in 1947. Many prominent McCarthyists want him out of the country, but he is still popular among ordinary Americans. Will the Tramp leave the States?

Dalton Trumbo

A gifted screenwriter, Dalton Trumbo's career has been lately marred by scandal. A member of the Hollywood Ten who did not testify in front of the HUAC, he has been blacklisted by Hollywood. He was an active member of the Communist Party until 1947 and was named by reporter William R. Wilkerson in an article along with other alleged Communists in Hollywood. His conviction on contempt of Congress is in the process of being appealed to the Supreme Court under the First Amendment, but success seems unlikely, especially considering the prevailing political winds of the



time. Where will Trumbo turn? His skill cannot be denied, and he will write for someone—the question is who and for what?

Secretary of State Dean Acheson

A lifelong Democrat, Dean Acheson is the current Secretary of State for the Truman administration. He implemented much of FDR's foreign policy, including attending the Bretton Woods Conference, where many global financial organizations were created. Eventually, he became Secretary and became close with President Truman. He has lately been accused of communist ties. As Secretary of State, Acheson can heavily influence Truman and is responsible for the implementation of American foreign policy. He has a cordial relationship with the other ambassadors and has garnered respect in cabinets around the world. Acheson is more moderate toward anti-communism than McCarthy due to his more globalist outlook, but how will he balance the need for political decision-making abroad with tensions at home?

General Douglas MacArthur

One of the most experienced and well-reputed generals in the United States, Douglas MacArthur is the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and the Commander of the Far East Command. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his time in the Philippines and is also overseeing the occupation of Japan. He is immensely popular among the general public and has deep connections in the Army, but occasionally goes too far for the political establishment's tastes. What will MacArthur do next? There seems to be trouble brewing in Korea, close to his current posting in Japan. Will he go there next? Or will he turn his focus towards politics?



Governor Earl Warren

Born in beautiful Los Angeles, California, Earl Warren is the current Governor of California. Before he ran for governor, Warren was considered a tough district attorney that would enforce the law and go after corruption. But he also went after organized labor in the San Francisco General Strike. He is the leader of the California Republican Party. As the Governor of California, he has all powers of the office, but must keep his constituents happy. But does Warren have further ambitions beyond the governorship? His national presence is steadily growing—where will he go next?

Edward R. Murrow

The vice president of CBS and the head of CBS News, Edward Murrow is one of the most well-known faces on television. He first rose to prominence with his reports from London, which began with what became one of his signature lines: “**This** is London,” and ended with another of his catchphrases: “Good night, and good luck.” Now, as the head of CBS News, Murrow has broad power to shape the news cycle. He also regularly appears on radio and the 7:45 PM newscast. He is in favor of the right to dissent, and generally finds McCarthyism odious. Murrow’s ability to spread information is near-unparalleled, but he still must fear repercussions. With the increase in media censorship, and particularly following the Hollywood Blacklist, he must tread with care. If he is too rash, Murrow could draw the ire of powerful men.

Elijah Muhammad

Elijah Muhammad is the head of the Nation of Islam, a movement that is rising in size and power advocating African-American separatism, self-reliance and nationalism. His views on race are controversial, both within the Nation and outside, particularly in more mainstream African-American organizations like the NAACP. As a



religious leader, he is a fiery orator and appeals to many middle-aged African-American men. In spite of his three-year imprisonment, his movement is still increasing in size and influence, so much so that the authorities are starting to take notice. How high can Muhammad rise?

Eugene Dennis

The current General Secretary of the Communist Party USA, Eugene Dennis has been involved in Labor all his life. He joined the Communists in 1926 and became the General Secretary in 1945. In 1948, Dennis and many other party leaders were charged under the Smith Act, allegedly “advocating to overthrow” the United States. Dennis never openly called for the overthrow of the US, but he did advocate the ideas of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, whose ideas are often considered dangerously revolutionary. Dennis is currently out on bail, but his court date is coming soon. Although Dennis is the leader of a powerful party who is seemingly still on the rise, he is in jeopardy. He must turn this situation to his advantage. Will this be the end of the American Communists? Or will they use this trial in their favor and rise stronger than ever?

President Fulgencio Batista

Born in Cuba, Fulgencio Batista came from a humble background, and earned a living as a teenager doing menial labor. He eventually moved from the countryside to Havana and joined the Army. In 1933, he led the Sergeant’s Revolt, part of a coup d’etat that brought down the government. Batista became the Army Chief of Staff, but truly controlled the presidency and ruled through a series of weak proxy presidents. In 1940, under a left-wing coalition, Batista was elected president under the new constitution. After his handpicked successor was defeated, he left Cuba for Florida. He continued to participate in Cuban politics, even being elected Senator in 1948 while living in Florida.



He can count on political influence and support among the Cuban people, as well as some deference from the American government. Will Batista rise from the ashes and return to Cuba? And if so, on what terms?

George Meany

George Meany has been involved in Labor for his whole life. He grew up poor in the Bronx and left high school to work as a plumber. He worked in many unions, and in leadership positions, developed close ties with political leaders such as Herbert H. Lehman. In 1936, he also co-founded the American Labor Party, which was mostly active in New York. Eventually, he became secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor. He developed close ties with notable anti-communist labor leaders like Matthew Wohl, vice president of the AFL. He bucked the rest of the CIO when he decided to sign an affidavit stating that he was not a communist. As AFL President William Green falls sick and Meany becomes the de facto president, how will Meany use this power? Will Labor rise again?

Herbert Lawrence Block (Herblock)

Herbert Lawrence Block, or Herblock, was born in 1909. A native of Chicago, he was hired during college as the new editorial cartoonist for the Chicago Daily News. He never returned to school, and since has made his living making cartoons. He criticized the Soviets and Americans, and won a Pulitzer in 1942. In 1944, he was hired by the Washington Post as chief editorial cartoonist, where he works today. He is a sharp critic of McCarthyism and either independently coined or was one of the first to use the term. He has extensive contacts in the world of newspapers, and is well-regarded in politics. To quote Katharine Graham, the longtime chairman of the Washington Post, “Don't mess with Herb.”



J. Edgar Hoover

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was a prominent anti-communist and aided in many of the investigations into communist activities. Contributing to both the first and second Red Scare, Hoover and his agency would gather extensive information through wiretaps, surveillance, and spies, garnering sufficient information for high profile legal cases. One of his major contributions would include the conviction of 12 prominent leaders of the American Communist Party in 1949 on charges of promoting treason. Hoover is a veteran of both Red Scares, but as a member of the FBI, his reputation isn't secure. Are there events in his past that he would like to keep hidden? Perhaps things of a more personal nature?

Representative John F. Kennedy

Representative John F. Kennedy is a unique character among Democrats. Kennedy's father is a strong supporter and friend of Joseph McCarthy, and McCarthy even briefly dated Kennedy's sister. Thus, despite his liberal resume, including support for labor unions, better healthcare and housing for veterans, JFK's position on McCarthyism is amorphous and conflicted, making him an easy target for both sides. He has largely been able to evade questions on McCarthyism but may soon need to take a stand. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee as well as the Veterans Affairs Committee, he has some sway in Congress, but because he was elected just three years ago, his influence is limited. His campaigns were also entirely funded by his McCarthyist father, and he still relies on that support. His main strength is his oratorical skill and support among the armed forces. His name is often thrown around in conversations about the 1952 Massachusetts senatorial election, and he has



the broad appeal to go even further. How far will this Kennedy rise? And will his rise require a reckoning with the politics of his family and father?

Representative John Stephens Wood

A career Democratic Congressman, John Stephens Wood is the chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). He previously served as a state congressman in Georgia and joined Congress in 1931. As HUAC chairman, he has both a vote and the power to influence decisions greatly. He can also delay HUAC by obstructing them through procedural matters. Wood also has all the influence and agency you would expect of a seasoned veteran of Congress. How effective will the HUAC be? How long will Wood be able to keep this (now prestigious) committee spot?

Malcolm X

A young African-American radical, Malcolm X was imprisoned for breaking and entering and a series of burglaries against white families in Massachusetts. In prison, he heard about the Nation of Islam, a burgeoning movement preaching Black-self reliance; he quickly became a part of the movement. For the purposes of this committee, he was pardoned in 1949 and took up a leadership role in the movement. He is a fiery orator and frequently denounces white civilization as oppressive. His movement seems to be gaining momentum, but authorities are starting to take notice, and they might take action. Malcolm X is talking dangerously in a time where dissent is increasingly suppressed. Will his movement provoke the authorities?

Marilyn Monroe

A rising star in the world of film, Marilyn Monroe started gaining popularity as a model for the US Army. She then switched to film in 1947 with Fox and is rising in



popularity. She is trying to move out of modeling and establish herself in the acting industry. Monroe tends to keep her political leanings out of her acting and modeling, so little is known about where she stands, but due to her broad popularity as a sex symbol in the modeling industry, she has influence across political lines. Now, she is unsigned and working in modeling to supplement her income, but she dreams of a return to acting. Where will she go next?

Secretary Maurice J. Tobin

The current Secretary of Labor, Tobin is a Massachusetts Democrat known for his strong support of unions. Although the Secretary of Labor doesn't have the prestige of State or Defense, Tobin has been relentless in expanding his department's influence. But, he is often ignored in cabinet discussions. He was once Governor of Massachusetts and retains a lot of influence and respect from his time there, and has connections in Washington. Will Tobin make the Labor Department more relevant in this time of intense anti-Labor feeling? Or will he collapse?

Senator Pat McCarran

A former lawyer, Pat McCarran was elected to the Senate as a Democrat from Nevada in 1932. He is the current chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Foreign Economic Cooperation. McCarran opposed FDR's Second New Deal and interventionism in Europe. As chairman, he has broad power to kill bills that require Judiciary Committee approval. He was against unions, immigration and the United Nations, and also admired Francisco Franco—McCarran was nicknamed the “Senator from Madrid” due to his close ties with the regime. He is stridently anti-communist; though McCarthy was definitely the loudest, McCarran may be the most effective at restricting leftist movements. His



status as a senator renders him influential, but as he is generally disliked by many of his colleagues, he must not push it too far. How much will he be able to get?

Representative Richard Nixon

A member of the HUAC, Richard Nixon was elected to Congress in 1946 as a Republican from the state of California. He quickly distinguished himself as a member of the committee, playing a crucial role in the trial of Alger Hiss, persisting until evidence was finally found. In 1948, Nixon even won both party primaries in his district, demonstrating his ability to appeal to both sides of the aisle. Nixon is looking to jump into a higher position from Congress and has begun exploring the possibility of a Senate run. How far will Nixon rise? And if he does, what will he do?

Robert E. Stripling

Robert E. Stripling is a Texas-born Democrat serving as the chief investigator of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). He has plenty of discretionary power when it comes to the legality of his investigations, and also has the backing of the HUAC. He testified in the 1948 Alger Hiss trial and was one of the key gatherers of information. But, he is a shadowy figure due to the nature of his investigations, and very few people know him well. In Congress, he has some influence, for if he investigates a Congressperson, their career is likely done. How will he use his power?

Thurgood Marshall

One of the leaders of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Thurgood Marshall is one of America's foremost legal minds. He has argued numerous cases before the Supreme Court, and is well-respected in America's liberal legal community. He has fought for African-American rights in the legal system since the inception of his legal career, with



one of his first cases being *Murray v Pearson*, a challenge to the University of Maryland denying Donald Gaines Murray, an African-American, admission to the school on account of race. Now, as he turns his focus towards segregated schools, where will he go next? Wherever he goes, legal victories will surely follow.

Walter Reuther

An American leader of organized labor, Walter Reuther is a lifelong labor advocate and leftist. As a child, he visited Eugene Debs while Debs was incarcerated for his antiwar views. He was a member of the Socialist Party and later joined the Democratic Party. Reuther has led strikes all over the United States, mobilizing workers, and is one of the most prominent labor leaders in the United States. He is a progressive labor leader and advocates for social democracy. Because of his prominent status in the labor movement, he has been the target of two assassinations, barely surviving. He is the president of the Union of Automobile Workers (UAW) and has much influence in the Labor camp. He is also a prominent ally of the burgeoning Civil Rights movement. His progressive ideals might come under fire in the current paranoid environment, but he seems poised for a larger national role.

Walter White

The current leader of the NAACP, Walter White has spent his entire life crusading for civil rights. He oversaw and investigated many abuses against African-Americans and competed with the Communists for influence. He is also the author of multiple books. White has deep connections within the civil rights movement and in government, and due to his fair skin can pass as white, aiding his investigations and infiltrations. He is a strong proponent of anti-lynching bills but has continually been opposed by Southern Democrats. When it comes to communism, White believes



that African-Americans need to stay wary, mainly because of discrimination, as being both communist and black would be a double dose of hatred. Will White push through his legal reforms? Will he be able to outcompete the communists for influence in the African-American community? Or will he change tack?

W.E.B Du Bois

One of the most famous Harlem Renaissance intellectuals, W.E.B Du Bois was one of the founders of the NAACP and a prolific writer. He advocated for racial equality and peace, and throughout his career oscillated between the ideas of racial uplift (specifically the Talented Tenth) and more anti-racist ideas. He was part of the three-man delegation to the United States sent by the NAACP, but had to resign in 1948 due to his association with prominent communists. He now often writes for leftist news and speaks at peace conferences worldwide. He was part of the Socialist Party before its virtual demise, and still has associates among the radical left. Du Bois is widely regarded as one of the greatest scholars of the age, and therefore has an enormous reputation, particularly among the African-American community. He also still has many contacts, particularly in the NAACP. But, Du Bois must watch himself, as his alleged communist sympathies have drawn the ire of some powerful men.

William Randolph Hearst Jr.

The heir to an extensive media empire, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist William Randolph Hearst Jr. is poised to inherit his ailing father's legacy at the height of this crisis. Hearst Sr. was notorious for racist and fascist sentiment throughout his career, which showed through in much of his newspaper work. Indeed, McCarthy's anti-communist paranoia has only been amplified by the Hearst media conglomerate. Due to his father's past efforts to establish the family, Hearst Jr. enjoys strong support



among anti-communist circles by proxy. And the potential reach of his empire into American society is staggering. However, not much is known about his personal beliefs. Will Hearst Jr. take a stand and attempt to clear his father's name? Or will he use his powers for another purpose?



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How does your character approach communism in America?
- How has your character been affected by communist ideology?
 - How has it shaped them?
- What is more important: national security or personal freedom?
- Is ideological compromise desirable?
 - Is it achievable?
- Are there communists within the United States government?
 - If you believe so, should they be removed?
- Should the United States intervene abroad to enforce its ideology?
 - If so, to what extent?
- What are your character's personal motivations and goals?
- Who does your character trust? Who is suspicious?
- How does your character's ideology compare to others?
 - Are you willing to work with opposing ideologies?
- How can you influence the public to submit to your ideology?



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