



- Republican senator from Wisconsin
- 1950: Speech claiming he knew 205 members of the U.S. State Dept. who were members of the Communist Party
- America was in the midst of the “red scare” and paranoid about the communist threat
  - Believed McCarthy
- Claimed he had a list of names
- Accused the Democratic Party of treason for allowing communists to infiltrate the government



Senator Joseph McCarthy  
“The Second Red Scare”



- McCarthy's methods were suspect from the beginning
- He became famous by "naming" alleged communists in the government, the military, and the entertainment industry
- No solid evidence against the accused
- Attacked Secretary of State George Marshall (Marshall Plan) for the loss of China to communism
  - Accused Marshall of treason

- Accused President Truman:
  - Being “soft” on communism
  - Allied with communists
- Truman claimed McCarthy was the *“best weapon the Kremlin (Russia) had...”*
  - McCarthy’s actions were the same as *“shooting American soldiers in the back...”*
- McCarthy claimed Truman fired Gen. MacArthur only after his advisors got him (Truman) drunk.



- **House Un-American Activities Committee**

- Est. in 1937 to investigate “un-American” and subversive activities
- 1940s & 1950s investigated alleged communist infiltration of the movie industry
  - Called many famous writers, actors, directors, and musical performers to testify
    - Most famous chairman was future president Richard Nixon



AP File /Bill Achatz 1948



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- **BLACKLISTING**

- Practice that denied suspected communists or “subversives” employment opportunities

- Affected several industries and professions

- Most famously the entertainment industry

- Case of the “Hollywood Ten”

- Group of actors, producers, writers, and others investigated by the HUAC

- All cited the 5th Amendment

- All went to jail for year and \$1000 fine

- One, Edward Dmytryk, cooperated

- He gave up 20 names of industry colleagues he claimed were communists

- Ruined careers as the movie industry denied anyone suspected of being associated with communism



- **The Rosenbergs**
  - Julius and Ethel
- Found guilty of selling atomic bomb secrets to the Russians
- First civilians to be convicted and executed on charges of espionage
- The case was controversial
  - Many believed they did not receive a fair trial
  - Evidence was questionable
  - Information accused of selling was trivial
    - Punishment did not fit the crime





**GARY COOPER**  
Actor



- **Army-McCarthy Hearings 1954**
- First congressional hearings televised nationally
- McCarthy had asserted the Army had been infiltrated by communists
- Army claimed McCarthy tried to get favors for a former staff member now in the Army
- Joseph Welch, special counsel for the Army, challenged McCarthy to produce a “list” of communists working in defense plants
- McCarthy attacked Welch’s employee, Fred Fisher for being a communist



- The public saw McCarthy’s reckless and dishonest behavior
- His approval ratings dropped
- By the end of 1954, Senate censured McCarthy
- Ruined his career in politics



- In December 1954, Senate voted 65-22 to formally censure (silence) McCarthy for:
  - “Improper conduct that tended to bring the Senate to dishonor and disrepute.”
  - McCarthy retained his seat in the Senate
    - His popularity and importance as a national figure disintegrated
    - 1957 McCarthy died from complications due to alcoholism.

