

## Not Fake News: The New York Times and Senator Joseph McCarthy

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*In the early 1950s, newspapers contributed significantly to the political and social tension of the Second Red Scare. Brought on by the successful atomic tests of the Soviet Union and the fall of China to Mao Zedong and communism, Americans feared the red specter of communism looming over the globe. Nearly every day, the New York Times and other reputable news sources reported on new government roundups of alleged communists and Soviet sympathizers. While communism constituted a significant catalyst for the frenzy that characterizes the Second Red Scare, Joseph McCarthy dominated the political landscape. His actions with the aid of the United States government dramatized the very real fear of communist infiltrations. Although other institutions tended to take an anti-McCarthy stance, The New York Times' reporting on Senator Joseph McCarthy remained balanced despite the rise and fall of McCarthy's popularity beginning in 1948 until his death in 1957.*

Distrust and hatred of communism reached its height in the 1950s with anticommunism becoming synonymous with patriotism. From the Senate, McCarthy led a period of intense political repression against any people labelled “communist.” His accusations of communist infiltration escalated into attacks on the Truman administration, the State Department, the United States Army, and homosexuals. As a result of these actions and others, the United States Senate voted to censure McCarthy three years before his death.<sup>1</sup> The use of blacklists and trials enabled McCarthy to conduct his famous witch-hunt for communists from Hollywood to the State Department. The anti-communist hysteria that caused McCarthy's popularity to rise ultimately culminated in his demise. Although other institutions and other historians tended to take an anti-McCarthy stance, *The New York Times'* reporting on Senator Joseph McCarthy remained a lynchpin of journalistic integrity despite the rise and fall of McCarthy's popularity beginning in 1948 until his death in 1957.

Throughout its tenure, *The New York Times* garnered a reputation of significant repute. At the time of its inception in 1851, the *Times*, then called the *New-York Daily Times*, self-identified itself as a publication with a conservative bent.<sup>2</sup> By 1857, the *Times* shortened its name to the *New-York Times* and later mirrored the abandonment the hyphen with the city of New York in the 1890s.<sup>3</sup> By the 1880s, the *Times* began transitioning from a conservative reporting stance to one that focused more on independent political analysis.<sup>4</sup> By 1897, the *Times* adopted the slogan “All The News That's Fit To Print” which has appeared on every front page since.<sup>5</sup> Its coverage of the two world wars followed a similar pattern in the twentieth century. In short, *The New York Times* consistently provided unbiased reporting for its subscribers from nearly the very beginning and

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<sup>1</sup> “Censure,” *New York Times*, December 3, 1954.

<sup>2</sup> “A Word about Ourselves,” *New-York Daily Times*. September 18, 1851.

<sup>3</sup> Fortier, Alison. *A History Lover's Guide to New York City*. (Dover, New Hampshire: Arcadia Publishing, 2016), 166.

<sup>4</sup> Elmer Holmes Davis (1921). *History of the New York Times, 1851-1921*. New York Times. pp. 215–218.

<sup>5</sup> “New York Times Timeline 1881–1910,” The New York Times Company.

continued this pattern through the Second Red Scare unlike the majority of the scholarship from many historians.

Scholarship concerning the early 1950s evolved as the Freedom of Information Act and Soviet archives released new and important documents to historians. The Communist Party of America experienced incredibly unconstitutional harassment and prosecution at the hands of the politicians elected to protect the rights of its citizens as a result of the ideological roots of the Cold War. Communism directly challenged and threatened capitalism. Thus, the Stalin-like purges of domestic communists from American society seemed to be justified. However, following the events of the Second Red Scare, most Americans condemned the actions of McCarthy and the United States government. Americans generally regarded the Soviet Union as enemy number one but no longer trusted characters like McCarthy and their government to bring them to justice. Most either doubted or no longer believed the sensational stories of Reds lurking behind every corner of American society. However, as both American and Russian archives began to declassify pertinent documents, these documents confirmed the veracity of many of McCarthy's claims and the historiography changed its stance. As the understanding of the Second Red Scare deepened, the historiography shifted positions on Senator Joseph McCarthy's role during that time.

Patrick J. Gilpin examines three particular victims of the Second Red Scare in his article entitled "Charles S. Johnson and the Second Red Scare: An Episode."<sup>6</sup> Gilpin wrote about Charles Johnson, a black man who had devoted his time to improving race relations between white Americans and black Americans.<sup>7</sup> Johnson promoted education among black communities as well as promoting racial integration. As a member of the faculty at Fisk University, Johnson held annual Race Relations Institutes starting in 1944.<sup>8</sup> While at Fisk, Johnson found a new comrade among his coworkers—Lee Lorch, a well-known civil rights activist. However, this friendship did not last long as the House Un-American Activities Committee accused Lorch of being a member of the American Communist Party.<sup>9</sup> This accusation developed mostly from the alleged association between the civil rights movement and communism. As a result of this as well as Johnson's suggested public relations strategy for the university, Fisk dismissed Lorch. While Lorch officially bore the scarlet letter of communism, Fisk and Johnson were forever tainted by association.<sup>10</sup> Gilpin's research highlighted the forgotten ordinary people affected by the communist witch-hunt of the 1940s and 1950s.

Patrick Gilpin wrote his article entitled "Charles S. Johnson and the Second Red Scare: An Episode" in 1978.<sup>11</sup> His focus on the unlucky victims of the anti-communist hysteria mirrored a developing story in New York concerning a toxic waste dump known to modernity as "Love

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<sup>6</sup> Patrick J. Gilpin. "Charles S. Johnson and the Second Red Scare: An Episode." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 37, no. 1 (1978): 76-88. <http://www.jstor.org.libproxy.troy.edu/stable/42625819>.

<sup>7</sup> Gilpin, 79.

<sup>8</sup> Gilpin, 77.

<sup>9</sup> Gilpin, 81.

<sup>10</sup> Gilpin, 83.

<sup>11</sup> Patrick J. Gilpin. "Charles S. Johnson and the Second Red Scare: An Episode." *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 37, no. 1 (1978): 76-88. <http://www.jstor.org.libproxy.troy.edu/stable/42625819>.

Canal” in 1978. Both the Second Red Scare and Love Canal provided prime examples of government entities not providing for their constituents. The United States government did not protect the civil liberties of those accused of communist affiliations in the same way that it did not protect future generations from the horrible effects of toxic waste at Love Canal. At the time Gilpin wrote his piece of scholarship, the United States attempted to deal with problems in the post-Vietnam War and post-Civil Rights Movement world. These conflicts caused great public unrest and gave way to an entire movement centered on challenging and distrusting the government. Gilpin seemed to be reacting to the general atmosphere of distrust concerning the United States government in his article with his visceral reaction to the persecution of communists. His negative portrayal of McCarthyism and his positive portrayal of its victims, particularly black Americans, reinforced this inference despite the balanced representation of McCarthy by *The New York Times*. While big names like McCarthy and W.E.B Du Bois come to mind in regard to the Second Red Scare, Gilpin cautioned historians to remember the ordinary people scarred by this event.

Historian Robbie Lieberman explored the connection between the CPUSA, the anti-communist movement, and the peace movement in the United States in her book *The Strangest Dream: Communism, Anticommunism, and the U.S. Peace Movement, 1945-1963*.<sup>12</sup> While she primarily focused on the role of communists in the peace movement and the effect of anti-communism, Lieberman showcased the danger McCarthyism posed to the civil liberties of all Americans—not just the members of the American Communist Party.<sup>13</sup> An interesting point of her research noted that many Americans still equated the idea of peace as subversive/suspicious as a result of communist involvement during the Cold War. McCarthy’s attacks on communism included attacks on the peace movement.<sup>14</sup> Peace activism equaled un-American activity in the eyes of many Americans, especially in the early years of the Cold War.<sup>15</sup> For McCarthy and other anti-communist activists, Soviet sympathies and alliances accompanied opposition to the Cold War. Lieberman maintained that McCarthy played a significant role in the anti-communist movement’s attacks on all groups that included communists.<sup>16</sup>

Robbie Lieberman penned her volume *The Strangest Dream* at a time when the public’s trust in the United States government had greatly declined.<sup>17</sup> The United States Senate impeached President Bill Clinton for perjury a couple of years earlier. While her emphasis focused on the Peace Movement during and after the Red Scare, Lieberman condemned McCarthy and the U.S. government as virulently anti-democratic and as attacking the civil liberties of those not a part of the mainstream. Her book placed her firmly in the anti-McCarthy camp like most of the scholars that came before her and many that came after.

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<sup>12</sup> Robbie Lieberman. *The Strangest Dream: Communism, Anticommunism, and the U.S. Peace Movement, 1945-1963* (Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2000).

<sup>13</sup> Lieberman, 8.

<sup>14</sup> Lieberman, 15.

<sup>15</sup> Lieberman, 84.

<sup>16</sup> Lieberman, 199.

<sup>17</sup> Robbie Lieberman. *The Strangest Dream: Communism, Anticommunism, and the U.S. Peace Movement, 1945-1963* (Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2000).

Don E. Carleton examined the legacy of the Second Red Scare in Texas, particularly Houston, in his book *Red Scare: Right-Wing Hysteria, Fifties Fanaticism, and Their Legacy in Texas*.<sup>18</sup> His narrative focused on the early 1950s era but noted the significance of the leftist movements of the 1930s and 1940s.<sup>19</sup> Carleton described a virtual crusade against the communists of Houston led by several Christian organizations. While their efforts ultimately produced little fruit, this campaign led to the prohibition of certain textbooks as well as the harassment of the staff in the local school system.<sup>20</sup> While it grew in proportion to Senator Joseph McCarthy's claims, their veritable lynch mob ultimately declined when McCarthy did himself. Carleton's scholarship on the Second Red Scare definitively linked the anti-communist events in Washington, DC with the anti-communist events in cities and towns throughout the United States.

Don E. Carleton's narrative *Red Scare: Right-Wing Hysteria, Fifties Fanaticism, and Their Legacy in Texas* differed from much of the scholarship written previously.<sup>21</sup> While he still condemned many of the tactics of McCarthy, Carleton preoccupied himself with the influence and legacy of McCarthyism in the one particular city of Houston, Texas. He painted McCarthy in a negative light but did not personally connect with the outright loathing present in much of the historical writings concerning the time period. As time passed, the research of the Second Red Scare and Joseph McCarthy evolved. Carleton's book about the Second Red Scare in Houston demonstrated the progression of the historiographical perception of Senator Joseph McCarthy that fit the objective coverage of *The New York Times*.

While much of the scholarship and history books written before the 1990s painted McCarthy and Hoover as infamous firebrands, newly released information from intelligence agencies on both sides of the Cold War served to justify their claims of extensive Russian infiltration. While McCarthy and Hoover appeared to be far from American heroes, their actions aided the reformation of security of the United States government and ousted many genuine Soviet spies from their government positions. The release of the Venona cables and other pertinent documents enabled historians like Don E. Carleton to gain a more accurate picture of the truth behind the anti-communist movement led by Joseph McCarthy and J. Edgar Hoover like the one proved by the cover of *The New York Times*.

*The New York Times'* coverage of Senator Joseph McCarthy in 1948 showed two very different sides of his personal views. In 1948, the *Times* only published eighteen articles with McCarthy in the subject line. Most addressed cursory items like his support of a Republican candidate named Harold Stassen during the primaries preceding the 1948 presidential election.<sup>22</sup> Others included his participation in the affairs of the Senate. However, as time went on, the number of articles multiplied.

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<sup>18</sup> Don E. Carleton. *Red Scare: Right-Wing Hysteria, Fifties Fanaticism, and Their Legacy in Texas*. (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2014), 7.

<sup>19</sup> Carleton, 19.

<sup>20</sup> Carleton, 93.

<sup>21</sup> Don E. Carleton. *Red Scare: Right-Wing Hysteria, Fifties Fanaticism, and Their Legacy in Texas*. (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2014), 7.

<sup>22</sup> Clayton Knowles, "Dewey Goes On Air in Oregon Wind-Up," *New York Times*, May 21, 1948.

The *Times* ramped up their reporting on McCarthy in 1949 as his popularity grew. The *Times* printed forty articles on McCarthy and his senatorial actions during that year. One noteworthy article from 1949 discussed McCarthy's reaction to the allegations of unethical treatment of Nazi prisoners of war.<sup>23</sup> A former member of the press present at the Nazi war trials shared evidence with McCarthy that most of the confessions wrested from the defeated Germans came out of torture and coercion rather than free will. Waggoner wrote McCarthy's recorded reaction to this abuse of human rights saying, "'...it seems,' he said, 'to want to whitewash the Army.'"<sup>24</sup> The *Times* documented McCarthy's indignation over the exploitation of former enemy soldiers well. Yet, later in the year, they refused to shy away from reporting troubling words from McCarthy concerning his views on his soon-to-be nemesis communism. The United Press reported in an article concerning the newly open head of the Atom Project saying, "The senator [McCarthy] told a reporter that 'it would be a relief to Congress to have a man like La Follette on the job...' [because] '...we could trust him and he has no leanings whatsoever toward communism.'"<sup>25</sup> The timing of this article must be taken into account as, by 1949, the Soviet Union developed its own nuclear weapons and the revolution in China resulted in a communist government. However, the seeming desire of McCarthy to exclude communists from government projects and jobs appeared earlier in the *Times* than some associated with the beginning of the Second Red Scare. The coverage of the *Times* in 1948 and 1949 reflected an accurate picture of Senator Joseph McCarthy as he developed into the notorious politician he existed as in the early 1950s.

The volume of the coverage on Senator Joseph McCarthy by *The New York Times* before 1950 paled in comparison to the reporting following his February 9, 1950 speech he gave in Nevada.<sup>26</sup> The *Times*' coverage jumped from forty articles in 1949 to one hundred and fifty-seven in 1950 of which published seven before February 9. Even though his speech and the *Times* article catapulted McCarthy into new heights of political fame, the *Times* continued reporting as they had done previously. The majority of the articles published in 1950 addressed his career in the anti-communist witch-hunt but also significantly reported on McCarthy's other senatorial duties and veteran life. In late August of 1950, the Military Order of the Purple Heart awarded McCarthy its first Americanism award.<sup>27</sup> In spite of his status as a decorated veteran, the *Times* reported in December 1950 that the American Veterans Committee (AVC) called for impeachment proceedings to begin against McCarthy in the Senate.<sup>28</sup> As the reporting of *The New York Times* prolifically increased in direct correlation to the rising star of McCarthy, the regular coverage of the *Times* refrained from a bias when reporting on Senator Joseph McCarthy.

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<sup>23</sup> Walter Waggoner, "'Mock Trials' of Malmedy Nazis By U.S. Army Scored By Senator," *New York Times*, April, 20, 1949.

<sup>24</sup> Walter Waggoner, "'Mock Trials' of Malmedy Nazis By U.S. Army Scored By Senator," *New York Times*, April, 20, 1949.

<sup>25</sup> The United Press, "La Follette Urged Atom Head," *New York Times*, December 7, 1949.

<sup>26</sup> "M'Carthy Insists Truman Oust Reds," *New York Times*, February 12, 1950.

<sup>27</sup> "Veterans Honor McCarthy," *New York Times*, August, 26, 1950.

<sup>28</sup> "AVC Urges Senate to Impeach McCarthy," *New York Times*, December 25, 1950.

The reporting on Senator Joseph McCarthy by *The New York Times* increased very little in 1951. The *Times* published two hundred and four articles concerning McCarthy that year. However, the focus of its coverage narrowed to consist mainly of his activities involving the hunt for communists in the United States government as the Second Red Scare began to pick up speed. In March, a *Times* reporter named William White reported, “Senate investigators began in private today into charges by Senator R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, that a man connected with the State Department was ‘the top Russian espionage agent’ in the United States.”<sup>29</sup> This accusation, and others like it, escalated the hysteria of the Second Red Scare.<sup>30</sup> The *Times* consistently reported on the acceleration of McCarthy’s claims throughout 1951. However, it also regularly covered the opposition to his anti-communist campaign. In September 1951, White wrote that Democratic Senator William Benton maintained accusations of his own.<sup>31</sup> White recorded Benton’s strong words saying that McCarthy remained “...an amoral man who used the lie as an instrument of policy...a man of corruptibility and mendacity...who had followed a pattern of distortion and deceit.”<sup>32</sup> Despite McCarthy’s seeming popularity with many Americans, *The New York Times* maintained a consistent coverage on both sides of the McCarthy controversy.

The year 1952 heralded a new increase in *The New York Times*’ coverage of Senator Joseph McCarthy. The *Times* published three hundred and twenty two articles concerning McCarthy that year. In late January, the *Times* reported that McCarthy had launched a largely supported attack on the reputable news source *Time Magazine*.<sup>33</sup> It continued its reporting on the support McCarthy received from average Americans in an editorial by John B. Oakes in early November. Oakes reported that some Americans considered McCarthy to be “...one of the greatest Americans we’ve ever had.”<sup>34</sup> The anti-communist sentiment that gripped the nation became evident in Oakes’ writing as he quoted a Wisconsin farmer saying, “Joe [McCarthy] treats the communist party member as someone to be dealt with via the fist...he’s a slugger.”<sup>35</sup> However, in the same piece, Oakes, a known liberal on the editorial board of the *Times*, condemned McCarthyism as an attack on the cornerstone of American identity—freedom: “McCarthyism directly endangers that freedom, for, carried to its logical conclusion, it is as incompatible with democracy as communism itself. It equates loyalty with conformity, truth with orthodox. It leads to the same mental prison as communism.”<sup>36</sup> Yet, keeping with its consistent pattern of a lack of bias, a month later the *Times* still celebrated McCarthy’s six medals received for “extraordinary achievement as a Marine Corps officer in the Pacific during World War II.”<sup>37</sup> Despite the apparent objections to McCarthy by an

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<sup>29</sup> “Chief ‘Russian Spy’ Named by M’Carthy,” *New York Times*, March 22, 1951.

<sup>30</sup> “McCarthy Attacks Cheered by V.F.W.,” *New York Times*, March 21, 1951.

<sup>31</sup> William White, “Benton Gives Senate 10-Case Brief on McCarthy ‘Lies’ and ‘Deceits,’” *New York Times*, September 29, 1951.

<sup>32</sup> William White, “Benton Gives Senate 10-Case Brief on McCarthy ‘Lies’ and ‘Deceits,’” *New York Times*, September 29, 1951.

<sup>33</sup> “M’Carthy Assails Time Magazine,” *New York Times*, January 29, 1952.

<sup>34</sup> John B. Oakes, “Report on McCarthy and McCarthyism,” *New York Times*, November 2, 1952.

<sup>35</sup> John B. Oakes, “Report on McCarthy and McCarthyism,” *New York Times*, November 2, 1952.

<sup>36</sup> John B. Oakes, “Report on McCarthy and McCarthyism,” *New York Times*, November 2, 1952.

<sup>37</sup> The United Press, “McCarthy Gets 6 Medals For Heroism During War,” *New York Times*, December 30, 1952.

influential editor at the *Times*, *The New York Times* continued its model of unbiased reporting concerning Senator Joseph McCarthy.

In 1953, the number of articles published by *The New York Times* concerning Joseph McCarthy more than doubled from its total in 1952 but the *Times* persisted in printing both sides of the controversy. The coverage of the *Times* numbered six hundred and twenty-three pieces. In April, Oakes wrote another editorial condemning McCarthy and his anti-communist witch-hunt as showing disdain for “traditional American concepts of freedom and fair play.”<sup>38</sup> Oakes noted that McCarthy faced dissenters in his own backyard of the Senate. He quoted an anti-McCarthy Democrat, “I think McCarthyism, like communism, is a completely evil thing.”<sup>39</sup> This source asked the *Times* not to name him as he, like many public figures, feared the consequences of open dissent of McCarthy. Although it reported the opposition to him, the *Times* continued to report on the defense of McCarthy. In November, the *Times* reported McCarthy as saying, “This nation must stand as the leading bulwark against communism in the world...”<sup>40</sup> While the number of dissenting opinions began to grow, *The New York Times* faithfully persisted in its unbiased coverage of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

Once again, in 1954, the number of articles published by *The New York Times* on Senator Joseph McCarthy plateaued at six hundred and sixty-seven pieces and reflected the escalation of public criticism of McCarthy. In January, the *Times* reported that he received multiple Americanism awards.<sup>41</sup> However, many of the pieces written during 1954 covered the growing dissent against McCarthy. By June, Anthony Leviero wrote for the *Times* that Republican Vermont Senator Ralph Flanders motioned for debate to begin concerning the censure of McCarthy.<sup>42</sup> In December, the *Times* reported that the United States Senate’s censure motion against McCarthy had passed.<sup>43</sup> The *Times* continued its press coverage of the fallout from the censure movement until the end of the year. In spite of a tumultuous ending to 1954 for McCarthy, *The New York Times* persevered with its unprejudiced reporting on the now fallen status of Senator Joseph McCarthy.

By 1955, *The New York Times*’ reporting on Senator Joseph McCarthy decreased dramatically as a result of his very public censure by the United States Senate. The *Times*’ coverage dropped to nearly a third of what it written the year before to just two hundred and fifty-eight articles. The majority of these articles consisted of mundane events such as a federal audit clearing McCarthy of all accusations of financial misconduct during his anti-communist campaigns.<sup>44</sup> At

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<sup>38</sup> John B. Oakes, “Inquiry into McCarthy’s Status,” *New York Times*, April 12, 1953.

<sup>39</sup> John B. Oakes, “Inquiry into McCarthy’s Status,” *New York Times*, April 12, 1953.

<sup>40</sup> “Text of McCarthy Statement,” *New York Times*, December 4, 1953.

<sup>41</sup> William R. Conklin, “M’Carthy Seeking Trial Of A Major; Camp Kilmer Officer Invokes Fifth Amendment Here—Senator Gets Awards” *New York Times*, January 31, 1954.

<sup>42</sup> Anthony Leviero, “Flanders Calls M’Carthy ‘5<sup>th</sup> Amendment Senator’ As Censure Debate Opens; Charges Itemized; Knowland Tells Senate He Will Vote ‘Nay’ – Galleries Packed; Flanders Starts M’Carthy Debate,” *New York Times*, July 31, 1954.

<sup>43</sup> “Censure,” *New York Times*, December 3, 1954.

<sup>44</sup> Russell Baker, “M’Carthy Says Audit Clears His Finances; Cleared By U.S., M’Carthy Finds,” *New York Times*, April 20, 1955.

the end of 1955, the *Times* reported that McCarthy's influence remained at its lowest point ever in both Wisconsin and nationally.<sup>45</sup> The declining coverage of *The New York Times* concerning Senator Joseph McCarthy reflected his fading from the limelight in 1955.

Despite his continued career as a United States' Senator, *The New York Times*' coverage of Senator Joseph McCarthy declined even further in 1956 and 1957. The *Times* published only one hundred and twenty-nine articles on McCarthy that year. The bulk of these pieces concerned minor roles McCarthy played in Senate debates and the odd cartoon or two mocking him. By the end of the year, the lion's share of the *Times*' pieces focused on his numerous hospital visits due to various ailments. In August, McCarthy received treatment for an old war wound from World War II.<sup>46</sup> In December, McCarthy hit a deer with his car and missed the Republican National Convention as a result.<sup>47</sup> While it sustained its unbiased reporting on him, *The New York Times* continued to drop its numerical coverage on Senator Joseph McCarthy. Even in the event of his death in early 1957, *The New York Times* declined its coverage of Senator Joseph McCarthy. The *Times* reporting plummeted to merely eighty-two articles that year. When McCarthy died May 2, the *Times*' coverage picked up again for a short amount of time but quickly declined again by August.<sup>48</sup> It appeared that even the sudden death of the very divisive figure of McCarthy did not warrant a significant increase in coverage by the *Times*. While he did continue on as a United States senator before his death, *The New York Times* no longer covered Senator Joseph McCarthy as extensively as it had for many years previously.

*The New York Times* maintained a position of impartiality throughout Senator McCarthy's time in the spotlight. While its earlier coverage contained more variety in its subject matter, the *Times*' reporting did not encompass incendiary rhetoric or words. The Second Red Scare inflamed the public but the *Times* refused to get caught up in the hysteria. Despite the obvious bias of its editorial board, the *Times* maintained an unbiased point of view in its regular reporting.

The reporting of the *New York Times* played a crucial role in broadcasting the frenzy surrounding the anti-communist movement. Often called a witch-hunt, the *Times*' coverage of McCarthy helped to create his image as the leader of the eradication of communists in American society and government while still reporting the dissent. A historical examination of the *Times* provided an accurate mirror into the opinions of average Americans as it increased and decreased its coverage of McCarthy in a reflection of his infamy. The reporting of *New York Times* effectively embodied the political atmosphere of the years between 1948 and 1957. When American support of McCarthy waned in a matter of years, the *Times*' coverage of McCarthy waned. The *Times*' coverage of Senate investigations led by McCarthy showcased his short-lived status in the minds of regular Americans. Although historians like Patrick Gilpin, Robbie Lieberman, and Don E.

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<sup>45</sup> Richard J. H. Johnston, "Wiley Confounds Wisconsin Critics; Senator's Fence-Mending Drive Halts; G.O.P. Move to Deny Him Support," *New York Times*, December 27, 1955.

<sup>46</sup> "McCarthy in Naval Hospital," *New York Times*, August 11, 1956.

<sup>47</sup> "McCarthy May Miss Opening," *New York Times*, December 27, 1956.

<sup>48</sup> W.H. Lawrence, "M'Carthy Is Dead Of Liver Ailment At The Age Of 47," *New York Times*, May 3, 1957.

Carleton tended to take an anti-McCarthy stance, *The New York Times*' reporting on Senator Joseph McCarthy endured as a beacon of impartiality despite the rise and fall of McCarthy's popularity beginning in 1948 until his death in 1957.

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