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Front Page Edit Page Other Page

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Drury Sees Possibility of Setback for McCarthy

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"I'm not planning to take it anywhere," said Arkansas' John McClellan bluntly when somebody asked him where he planned to take the issue which brought his resignation from Joe McCarthy's investigating subcommittee; yet for the first time it appears there may be a situation developing which could result in some restraints on the free-swinging Wisconsin Republican.

Confronted by the sudden resignation of his staff director, J. B. Matthews, after that worthy said 7,000 members of the Protestant clergy were aiding the Communist apparatus, McCarthy at once followed his familiar diversionary practice by launching two new campaigns, one directed against the Central Intelligence Agency and the other against Dr. Robert Johnson, the outgoing head of the State Department information program.

This did not, however, confuse his colleagues, whatever effect it may have been designed to have in the headlines. The chairman's right to hire and fire staff members at will became an issue, which was upheld by his Republican colleagues; and McClellan, along with Stuart Symington of Missouri and Henry Jackson of Washington, left the subcommittee.



Allen Drury

Ike Enters Row.

Overshadowing that was the attack on the clergy which finally drew the President into the controversy; and the end of that is not in sight either. Although the Senator from Wisconsin is mighty fast on his feet, he may have gone too far in both matters.

Certainly he has made it quite likely that his activities will become a major Democratic issue in the next elections.

Up to now, the Democrats have been holding off, no more certain than anyone else as to what should be done. But now, particularly if the subcommittee attempts to continue investigating without any Democratic members at all—thereby destroying even the slightest pretense of objectivity and fairness—ample ammunition will be at hand. And since all three of the resigning committee members are men of stature and substance, the ammunition will be forcefully used.

Real Tragedy.

In all the hullabaloo, the real tragedy of the situation is once again being emphasized. There were Communists in government, but instead of approaching the matter soberly, the Senator from Wisconsin chose sensationalism and the resulting wave of opposition made the task of uncovering real subversives twice as difficult.

There were books which should have been removed from the overseas libraries, but instead of approaching the matter soberly, the Senator from Wisconsin chose sensationalism and the resulting wave of opposition to "book-burning" made the job twice as difficult.

There are undoubtedly some members of the clergy who are or have been allied with the Communist ideology, but instead of approaching the matter soberly, the Senator from Wisconsin has chosen sensationalism and the resulting wave of opposition has made the task of ferreting them out twice as difficult, if not, indeed, altogether impossible.

The Central Intelligence Agency is one of the weirdest conglomerations of people ever charged with the security of a great nation and it badly needs investigation, but instead of approaching the matter soberly the Senator from Wisconsin has chosen sensationalism and the resulting wave of opposition is going to make it very difficult to give CIA the shaking-up it so desperately needs.

With all these negative accomplishments to his credit, it is sometimes a little puzzling to come up against the sort of all-forgiving, all-embracing hero worship which the Senator seems to arouse in some areas of the country.