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Apples Are Red

If the Communist Party, USA, says that apple pie is good, must you give up apple pie? Apples are red. If the Daily Worker says that the Philadelphia Athletics don't have much of a ball club, is it un-American for other American League teams to win games from them? Silly questions, obviously. But how about this one: Since the Communist Party and the Daily Worker have criticized the methods of Senator Joe McCarthy, is everybody who criticises him un-American?

The only sane answer is no. To begin with, the implied logic is fallacious. Second, no one in this country, from the President down, should be immune from criticism. Third, a partial list of those who have criticised some of McCarthy's methods is enough to convince any reasonable person that there must be something wrong with reasoning which brands them as pro-subversive.

The list includes Senators Wiley, Potter, Ives, and Margaret Chase Smith; Governors Dewey of New York, Lodge of Connecticut, and McKeldin of Maryland; Secretary of State Dulles; Chief Justice Warren; Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge; Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams; Presidential Press Secretary James Hagerty; Central Intelligence Director Allen Dulles; Republican National Chairman Leonard Hall; Businessmen Henry Ford II, John J. McCloy, Paul Hoffman, Withrop W. Aldrich; Dr. Milton Eisenhower, Gen. Lucius Clay; Walter Lippmann, Roy Howard, Erwin D. Canham, Palmer Hoyt, Arthur Hays Sulzberger.

Are we belaboring the obvious? Is there any need to point out the absurdity of the argument that these men are enemies of the United States because they, like the Communists, have criticized McCarthy? There shouldn't be, we grant, but people do fall for this line. And there is a pamphlet, entitled "Know Your Enemy," which lists all these men as our enemies for that reason. The pamphlet is being widely distributed by a private group in Los Angeles. "The brunt of the fight against Communists," it says, "is now shifted to other groups . . . By virtue of their social positions these men exert greater influence and therefore are more dangerous than members of the Communist Party."

The pamphlet appears to be a sneak attack on President Eisenhower, whose views about McCarthy's methods are no secret. Most of the men listed are close to Eisenhower, or at least his supporters. But the President himself is not listed as an "enemy." There is a limit to what people will swallow in one dose.

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