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Well, That's Over

THE Republicans not the Democrats may now sigh with relief that Senator McCarthy has finally delivered his nationwide radio-TV speech. While it was apparent that Joe would win few new votes for General Eisenhower, it was not considered unlikely that he would lose many. Although the senator's speech was in his usual slippery mode of guilt by association, it was hardly worse than expected. Mixed though the blessing might be, it was still a blessing that Joe didn't unwind one of his most reckless pitches. That could have been the ball game for Adlai Stevenson, right then and there. As it is, we don't know—we just don't know.

Joe pulled his usual tricks of quoting people out of context, of drawing vague but unpleasant inferences by linking up unrelated incidents and by the distortion of simple statements. The latter is illustrated by McCarthy's comments about Mr. Stevenson's deposition on Alger Hiss' reputation. Joe worked that around to mean that Mr. Stevenson didn't know the difference between being "loyal or disloyal." "There is no difference," he said, "between being a little bit disloyal or being partly a traitor." And the goofballs who plunked down 50 bucks to listen to that irrelevant hogwash apparently thought it was real inspired.

JOE offered a hitherto unrevealed chapter on our state department's deportment in Europe. He accused Adlai of engineering a sell-out to the Italian Communists. That is a startling interpretation of Mr. Stevenson's role in postwar statecraft and one which, of course, is not supported by the record at all. The ones best equipped to set the record straight are Ike and Beedle Smith, the latter of whom was rung into the act for corroboration—undoubtedly to his acute embarrassment.

Fortunately Joe stopped at Italy. He might have applied the charge to all of Europe, had Mr. Stevenson's foreign economic assignments included other nations there. And that of course would have put it squarely up to the general who is having enough trouble already steering around McCarthy's mud without having, in addition, to spike his half-truths and innuendoes.

Now that McCarthy has tied Stevenson up with the extreme left wing and the Democrats have linked Ike with the extreme right wing, the American voter may wonder where he may find a candidate that will take the nation down the middle. The fact is, however, that both Ike and Adlai are far more moderate and rational than many of the jerks who are ballyhooing their shows.