

Case Will Pose New McCarthy Vote

By Marquis Childs

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CLOSE ASSOCIATES of President Eisenhower are now more than ever convinced that his way of "handling" Sen. Joseph McCarthy has been proved right.

By consistently turning the other cheek and responding with a soft answer or no answer at all, the President has let the Wisconsin Senator go on until, in this hopeful view, he has alienated most of his followers.

With McCarthy's direct attack on Mr. Eisen-



Childs

hower, it became a choice between the President

and the Senator. Faced with that choice and the approaching elections in 1956, most Republicans, whether they like it or not, must follow the Eisenhower banner. The alternative is to split the party so violently that even with the Eisenhower name again at the head of the ballot victory would be impossible.

If the President had hit back at McCarthy, he would merely have given the Senator an opportunity to trade blows on a level of seeming equality with the Chief Executive. By not engaging in angry exchange, much as Mr. Eisenhower has been tempted to do so, he has maintained the dignity of the Presidency above factional strife. Thus, in the view of his associates, his stature has increased while that of McCarthy has dwindled.

Shortly after the new Congress convenes Senate Republicans may be confronted with another test of whether their allegiance is to McCarthy or the President. Senator-elect Clifford P. Case of New Jersey, who was elected by a hair-line margin, has announced that in accord with a campaign pledge he will challenge McCarthy's right to have a place on any Senate committee with investigative powers. If this challenge should be put to a vote, Republicans would be on the spot. They were on record, 24 to 22, against censure for Senator McCarthy. But that was before the Senator publicly accused the President of softness toward communism.

DEMOCRATS WHO have been most active in opposing McCarthy's methods indignantly reject this benign view of the President. They say that he has let others bear the brunt of the fight and take all the punishment. They point to the lonely position of such Democrats as former Senators Millard Tydings of Maryland and William Benton of Connecticut. It was Benton's initial challenge that started the McCarthy showdown. Both Tydings and Benton were defeated for reelection.

Similarly, a Republican, Sen. Ralph Flanders of Vermont, seemed to stand almost alone as the McCarthy brickbats flew thick and fast. Another Republican, Sen. Arthur Watkins, chairman of the committee that considered the censure charge, heard himself called a coward and a handmaiden for communism.

But individual fortunes to one side, there is increasing evidence of the extremism of those who back McCarthy. A number of officials in Washington have recently received in the mail an extraordinary document listing the names of 140 individuals, organizations and publications as followers of the Communist Party line. This is based on the statement that "on November 24, 1953, the Communist Party issued orders to fight McCarthyism."

AMONG THOSE on the list are Chief Justice Earl Warren; Nelson Rockefeller; Winthrop Aldrich, former head of the Chase National Bank and now Ambassador to Great Britain; Secretary of State John Foster Dulles; Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency; Publisher Roy Howard, and John and Gardner Cowles of the Cowles publications. Both *Time* and *Life* are listed as followers of the Communist line, as is the *Christian Science Monitor*. The document, under the name of Gregory G. Bern, comes from a post office box in Los Angeles and copies are offered in wholesale lots up to 400 for \$10.

Carried to such absurd lengths, the extremist fringe on the right is self-defeating. That is why some are questioning the wisdom of the House Un-American Activities Committee in intimating that the Department of Justice should act against such hate groups as the National Renaissance Party. While the propaganda they put out is full of racial and religious hatred, it reaches for the most part only those of the lunatic fringe who are already infected with the virus of hate.

Such action also would seem to be an admission that these splinter groups actually were effective and that Americans subjected to this kind of propaganda might be in danger of succumbing to it. While in some areas in this period of stress and strain the hatemongers may have a following, extremists always have been an American phenomenon. The American system has thus far survived.