

McCarthyism, Then and Now

Nobody asked but ...

The stale whiff of McCarthyism stole across the venue of the State of the Union address last week. POTUS played the “socialism” card, or rather he just showed the back of the card, allowing no peeks at the face of the card — not of its value, not of its suit. He was deliberately vague and ambiguous. He traded in his wall and immigration, in favor of an even more nebulous concept, gearing up for 2020. Wonder why he didn’t go all in against communism?

I am all in against both communism and socialism. I believe that nothing should be subjugated to state interests. That is why I believe that when politicians use fear of these preposterous systems, they are playing with fire.

Let’s face it, immigration and the border wall had 6 years of exposure under Bush II, and now another two under POTUS (clown car edition). That’s more than double the mileage that Joe McCarthy got out of the era of McCarthyism.

All adult Americans should consider it a mandatory educational chore to learn, in some depth, the who, what, why, when, where, and how of the fervor against communism that distracted us, to the benefit of exploitative politicians, in the 1950s. Google “books, articles, and research on McCarthyism.” Make your own choices — you are responsible for what you learn. Further, you are responsible for what you make of that knowledge. It may be instructive to note that POTUS has invoked the words “witch hunt,” it seems, I could be wrong, more than has been done by any politician since the era of McCarthyism.

— Kilgore Forelle