

INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS



Activity 13

JOSEPH McCARTHY AND THE RED SCARE

Senator Joseph McCarthy seized on Americans' fears about communism to become the most controversial and infamous American of his time. McCarthy made sensational claims about Communist penetration of the United States government, and he accused many people of being Communist agents. One of the Americans most offended by McCarthy was the cartoonist Herbert Block, who draws under the name Herblock. Herblock is one of the most famous American political cartoonists of the 1900s. He has drawn his satirical cartoons for more than 60 years, principally at the *Washington Post*.

Directions: Study the cartoon below, and then answer the questions that follow.



From Herblock's *Here and Now*, Simon & Schuster, 1955.

ANALYZING THE CARTOON ACTIVITY 13 *(continued)*

1. Who is the person in the cartoon?

2. What is the meaning of the term "doctored photo"?

3. How does the cartoonist use caricature to make a point about McCarthy?

4. Explain the title of the cartoon.

CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Identifying the Main Idea** What is the main point of the cartoon? Explain how Herblock uses irony to make this main point.

6. **Recognizing Stereotypes** How does the cartoonist use stereotypes to make a point about McCarthy's character, and what is that point?

7. **Determining Cause and Effect** What impact do you think the McCarthy Era has had on the values of Americans today?
