

1st draft  
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Written by:  
John O. Walker  
J. Edgar Hoover

# All caps? Imaginary Interview

by  
Robert Traver

Prosecutor: Your name is Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin?

Witness: It is.

Pros: Are you the same Joe McCarthy who <sup>once</sup> ran for public office on the Democratic ticket <sup>back in Wisconsin</sup> in the early days of the New Deal?

Witness (<sup>shifting nervously</sup>): I refuse to answer on the grounds of self-incrimination. <sup>Another 5-A Democrat.</sup>

Prosecutor (<sup>signifying</sup> looking around room): Ah, <sup>the witness</sup> so you refuse to answer. <sup>That means he</sup> and wishes the Fifth Amendment. <sup>That means his</sup> guilty.

Voice: I object to that statement as highly prejudicial and move that it be stricken! Why--

Prosecutor: Who are you?

Voice: The witness' lawyer, ~~Sumner~~

Prosecutor: Put <sup>Sumner</sup> ~~him out~~ the room to ~~Sumner~~! <sup>foribly ejected</sup>  
(The lawyer is escorted from the hearing room <sup>to say, McArthur,</sup>)  
The prosecutor continues: You mean that you refuse to answer the question of whether or not you ever ran for <sup>public</sup> office on the party that has been guilty of twenty years of treason?

Witness (<sup>triumphantly</sup>): Who calls it that? Who <sup>you say so.</sup>

Witness (<sup>bristling</sup>): Who <sup>dare</sup> say that <sup>for twenty years</sup> more than fifty per cent of the American people ~~have~~ voted for ~~some~~ party of treason?

Prosecutor (<sup>triumphantly</sup>): You said so! I hold in my <sup>oh my</sup> hand the transcript of a radio-television <sup>series of</sup> speech you made on <sup>an occasion</sup> and <sup>or did you</sup> <sup>their label</sup> <sup>the</sup> Democratic Party on the party of twenty years of treason?

Witness (<sup>blundering</sup> <sup>stammering</sup>): I -- I -- What did you say?

Prosecutor: And did you not once, <sup>years ago</sup> <sup>some</sup> back in Wisconsin, <sup>once</sup> invite a group of fellow townsmen to hear F.D.R. speak over the radio?

*(comfused)*  
Witness A: I -- I was <sup>very</sup> young. <sup>I don't even</sup> I don't even <sup>recall</sup> recall a tail-gunner yet. And l - lots  
the main voice of F O R. <sup>(Pammy)</sup> <sup>lots of people</sup> lots of people listened to  
<sup>we thought he was our pal</sup> in these days they thought he was on  
our side. <sup>(Pammy's wedding)</sup> <sup>is there no longer</sup> is there no longer any -- any  
loyal American one <sup>past war?</sup> past war?

Pross: Ah! So you did listen to him?  
Witness: Well, yes, ... B - but I soon learned the  
error of my ways. <sup>largely</sup> (Pammy in pocket) I hold  
in my hands the transcript of several <sup>recent</sup> speeches  
calling him our greatest traitor. I -- I hold in  
my hands <sup>four</sup> <sup>parade</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>miscellaneous</sup> newspaper clippings <sup>criticizing</sup> <sup>me</sup>  
severely for criticizing him. <sup>Let me</sup> <sup>read</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>one</sup> --

*didn't leave the Democratic Party and yourself*  
Pross: Ah, how do we know that you didn't  
make and <sup>one of the chief</sup> <sup>undercover</sup> <sup>agents</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>F O R</sup> <sup>And</sup>  
work as <sup>the</sup> <sup>Democratic</sup> <sup>Party's</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>part</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>treason</sup>?

*(white-faced)*  
Witness: (U - what did you say?  
Pross: Would it that be a <sup>drab</sup> <sup>way</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>cover</sup>  
up your tracks? <sup>the</sup> <sup>perfect</sup> <sup>traitor</sup>?

*(shakes)*  
Witness: Please! You can't mean that <sup>any</sup> <sup>proof</sup>  
of <sup>mine</sup> <sup>now</sup> <sup>becomes</sup> <sup>proof</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>my</sup> <sup>guilt</sup>?  
(Mauritania) You can't mean that if I stayed  
in the Democratic party I am guilty and that if  
I left it this is <sup>equally</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>conclusive</sup> <sup>evidence</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>my</sup> <sup>guilt</sup>?  
Why -- I -- <sup>the</sup> <sup>whole</sup> <sup>thing</sup> <sup>is</sup>  
<sup>into</sup> <sup>an</sup> <sup>un</sup> <sup>American</sup>. <sup>It's</sup> <sup>all</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>bad</sup> <sup>dream</sup>...

Pross (to the microphone) See, <sup>folks,</sup> he admits his guilt.  
I declare a recess so that the matter can be  
referred to the Attorney General, <sup>for</sup> <sup>prosecuting</sup> 'Guard! Grab  
that man!

Guard: He's fainted, your majesty. <sup>rapidly</sup> <sup>glably</sup>

Pross: See, he's fainted before such <sup>overwhelming</sup>  
<sup>proof</sup> evidence of his guilt! (Pauses) Well, good day  
folks. <sup>I see</sup> <sup>time</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>up</sup>. <sup>See</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>with</sup>  
same time, same place. Don't forget <sup>your</sup> <sup>favorite</sup>  
"Shin Over Ahijeh!" <sup>Well</sup> <sup>send</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>reputation</sup>.  
<sup>the</sup> <sup>giant</sup> <sup>economy</sup> <sup>size</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>giant</sup> <sup>economy</sup> <sup>size</sup>.  
(A bell sounds for you and you and you)

Incl D.  
4/16/54.

Written by:  
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## IMAGINARY INTERVIEW

by  
Robert Traver

Prosecutor: Your name is Joseph McCarthy from Wisconsin?

Witness: It is.

Prosecutor: Aren't you the same Joe McCarthy who once ran for public office on the Democratic ticket -- back in Wisconsin in the early days of the New Deal?

Witness (shifting nervously): I -- I refuse to answer on the ground of self-incrimination.

Prosecutor (looking significantly around the room): Ah, so the witness if refuses to answer and invokes the Fifth Amendment! See, that means he's guilty.

Voice: I object to that statement as highly prejudicial and move that it be struck --

Prosecutor: Who is this man?

Voice: I am the witness' lawyer. I -- I --

Prosecutor: Put him out!

(The lawyer is forcibly ejected from the hearing room, <sup>still objecting.</sup> When order is restored the Prosecutor turns to the Witness and continues)

You mean to say, McCarthy, that you refuse to tell us whether or not you once ran for public office on the party that is guilty of Twenty Years of Treason?

Witness (bridling): Who calls it that? Who dares say that for twenty years more than half of the American people voted for a party of treason?

Prosecutor (triumphantly): You said so! I hold in my hand -- ahem -- I hold in my hand the transcript of a series of radio-television speeches you made on such-and-such an occasion. (He pauses) Now did you or did you not therein label the Democratic Party ~~as~~ the party of Twenty Years of Treason?

Witness (floundering): I-- I.... What did you say?

Prosecutor: And did you not once, years ago back in Wisconsin, invite a group of fellow townsmen <sup>up to your office</sup> to hear FDR speak on the radio?

Witness (confused and unhappy): I-- I was very young. Why, I wasn't even an intrepid tail-gunner yet. I-- look, lots of loyal Americans once listened to the siren voice of FDR. We thought he was our pal. (His voice breaks) I-- in this country is there no longer to be any--any redemption for past error? Must all of us be forever d-damned by the past?

Prosecutor: Ah! So you admit you did listen to him?

Witness: Well, yes.... B-but I soon learned the error of my ways. (He brightens and reaches eagerly in pocket) I-- I just remembered.... I <sup>now</sup> hold in my hand the text of several recent speeches calling FDR one of our greatest traitors -- next to Marshall, of course. (Again reaching in pocket) I-- I also hold in my hand four pounds of newspaper clippings from the bleeding heart press criticizing me severely for criticizing him. Let me read this dandy one into the record. It's from the --

Prosecutor: Ah! How do we know you didn't <sup>fake</sup> leaving the Democratic Party and didn't yourself write and plant these criticisms of yourself to cover up your real job as a chief undercover agent for FDR and his party of treason?

Witness (perspiring and white-faced) W--what did you say?

Prosecutor (softly): Wouldn't that be a diabolically clever way to hide and cover up your tracks? The Perfect Traitor?

Witness (swaying in chair): Please! You don't mean, you can't mean, that proof of my innocence now becomes contorted into proof of my guilt? (He blinks his eyes uncertainly) You can't mean that if I stay in the Democratic Party I am guilty; and that if I left it this is twisted into equally conclusive evidence of my guilt? That I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't? (He passes his hand weakly across his brow) Why -- I -- it's un-American. It -- it's all a bad dream....

Prosecutor (into the microphone): See, folks, he admits his guilt! I declare a recess so he can be referred to the Attorney General for prosecution. Guard! Grab that man!

Guard: He's fainted, your majesty --

Prosecutor: See, he's fainted before such overwhelming proof of his guilt. (He looks at his watch and continues rapidly, glibly) Well, folks, I see our time is nearly up, folks. See you next week, some time, new place. In the meantime don't forget your favorite program: "Spin 'em Alive." Remember, folks! We'll destroy and send you a new reputation <sup>and every</sup> each <sup>week</sup>. Free with every <sup>old</sup> box top. Good day, folks!

(A bell sounds -- for me and you, and you and you....)