House Un-American Activities Committee Communist Hunt

***Background:*** We have recently studied the rapid spread of communism through Eastern Europe and Eastern Asia. This rapid spread of communism led to fears that “Reds” had infiltrated high levels of the U.S. government and were plotting its immediate overthrow. Fueling this fear were the actions of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee. This nationwide fear of communist subversion became known as “the Red Scare.”

***Assignment***: For this assignment you will be role playing an FBI agent working for Director J. Edgar Hoover and the House Un-American Activities Committee. Attached you will find a list of suspected communists working in the Hamburg Area School District. Working with 2 other individuals and the rest of the people in your class, you will be working to discover who on the list is actually a communist. There are 4 actual communists on the list. One member of the list is a high ranking KGB agent and leader of a particularly dangerous spy ring. A special profile should be kept on this particular ringleader. This leads to a total of 5 communists. Once you have identified who you think the communists are you need to begin to create a detailed profile of the suspects. These profiles should include basic information about the suspect and what evidence you have gathered that leads you to believe that they are a communist. Your evidence should be specific and should have the times when you gathered the information. You must also be aware that several students have been identified as having communist sympathies. These students may attempt to persuade you to investigate “wrong” individuals or give you incorrect information.

***Profiles:*** Five profiles of suspects should be kept in manila folders. Profiles should include the page below.

***Suspect Profile***

**Name:**

**Position:**

**Educational Background:**

**Controversial Political Groups:**

**Political Leanings:**

**Controversial Reading Material:**

**Controversial Friendships:**

**Travels Abroad and Foreign Contacts:**

**Other evidence gathered (including date and time):**

**Suspected Communist Sympathizers**

1. Mr. Spohn
2. Mrs. Witman
3. Mrs. Mennig
4. Mr. Bertschy
5. Ms. Browne
6. Ms. Roberts
7. Mr. Macsisak
8. Mr. Buggy
9. Mr. King
10. Mrs. Scharff
11. Mrs. Bucheit
12. Mrs. Braun
13. Mrs. Palerino
14. Ms. Brantlecht
15. Ms. Salvati
16. Mrs. Ruhf
17. Mrs. Brunner
18. Ms. Trentacoste
19. Coach Sinkovich
20. Mrs. Roebuck
21. Ms. Kegerreis
22. Mrs. Brewer
23. Mr. Evans
24. Mr. Boyer
25. Mrs. Spencer
26. Mrs. Hardick
27. Mr. Sola