Why was everyone so scared of the Reds?

* The 1950’s was a decade of post-war patriotism.
* People generally respected their elders.
* Authority was rarely questioned.
Joseph McCarthy

* Republican
* Senator, Wisconsin
* accused people of being Communist with little or no evidence.
* grew popular in the early 50’s.
Examples of McCarthyism:

* HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee)

* created the “Hollywood Ten”, blacklisted actors, directors, screenwriters, etc...

* Richard Nixon was a member
Examples continued...

* Alger Hiss

* Lawyer/State Dept. accused of being a Soviet Spy.

* found guilty of perjury, regarding his relationship with Whittaker Chambers.
The Pumpkin Papers
Examples continued...

* Ethel & Julius Rosenberg.

* convicted and sentenced to death for giving atomic bomb secrets to Soviet Union.
David Greenglass, the real criminal and Ethel’s brother.

* received 15 years in prison.
* information passed on to the Soviets probably was not very useful anyway.
McCarthy’s downfall:

* Edward R. Murrow’s T.V. criticism.
* Army-McCarthy Hearings, 1954.
* President Eisenhower never liked him.
* Alcoholism factored into his life.
* died of liver disease in 1957.
McCarthy’s Impact on the Cold War:

- The paranoia he created led to a misunderstanding of “the enemy”.
- Foreign Policy was centered on containing Communism regardless of the circumstance.
- McCarthy was 1 example of many that led to public’s lack of trust in the government, which helps create the rebellious 1960’s.
Talkin’ John Birch Paranoid Blues, by Bob Dylan:

Well, I was feelin' sad and feelin' blue,
Well, I wus lookin' everywhere for them gol-darned Reds.
I didn't know what in the world I was gonna do.

Well, I quit my job so I could work alone.
Well, I wus lookin' high and low for them Reds everywhere.
They wus in the air.
Now Eisenhower, he's a Russian spy.
I quit my job so I could work alone.
I wus movin' around.

Then I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes.
They wus on the ground.
Now Lincoln, Jefferson and that Roosevelt guy.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

They wouldn't gimme no peace...
That ol' Betty Ross.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

So I run down most hurriedly
And joined up with the John Birch Society (1.).
I got me a secret membership card
And discovered they wus red stripes on the American flag!
Now, I quit my job so I could work alone.

And I started off a-walkin' down the road.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.
Yee-hoo, I'm a real John Bircher now!
That's really a true American: George Lincoln Rockwell (2.).
I quit my job so I could work alone.

I got up in the mornin' 'n' looked under my bed.
Now, I quit my job so I could work alone.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

I looked in the sink, behind the door.
I couldn't imagine doin' anything else.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

I looked in the glove compartment of my car.
Well, I fin'ly started thinkin' straight.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

They wus lookin' everywhere for them gol-darned Reds.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

Looked in the sink, behind the door.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

Then I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

Looked in the glove compartment of my car.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

They wus on the ground.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

Them Communists, they wus comin' around.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

They wus in the air.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

They wus on the ground.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

Followed some clues from my detective bag.
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

And discovered they wus red stripes on the American flag!
I wus movin', movin', movin', movin'.

That ol' Betty Ross.
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