The Laughs Were Appropriate For Joe McCarthy

Joe McCarthy came to the campus Sunday. He brought with him his photographs, his rosin-tinged derby, and his blatant misrepresentation of facts.

His audience wasn’t impressed. The laughter which greeted a good share of his remarks could be chalked up as disrespect and rudeness by a student audience if it had happened to another speaker. But with McCarthy, the laughter was monumental. Even with restraint, it would have been hard to keep a straight face when McCarthy:

- Named General Douglas MacArthur the “greatest military leader since Genghis Khan.”
- Condescended to leave his Communist in government comments enough to call President Truman a “loyal American.”
- Stumbled and fumbled and finally reached into his loaded briefcase for “proof, not just names” when asked to name “just one Communist now employed by the state department.”

Joe was plainly displeased. He labeled his hecklers as “yon braying Jackasses.” He raged for eloquent phrases and fell flat on his face.

IT WAS A HEARTENING experience for those who have long realized the McCarthy danger and have seen the hysterical pitch being reached in America due, more often than not, to outside pressure being employed by Wisconsin’s junior senator.

If McCarthy had anticipated a sympathetic reception, he should have known better. He should have known that a student body—although only a few hours later, gave a tremendous standing ovation to Max Lerner, couldn’t have reacted differently to a speech filled with evasion, smears, and half-truths.

THERE COULD HAVE been no greater contrast to the McCarthy speech than the one offered by Max Lerner. Lerner, himself a recent victim of a bit of McCarthyism, spoke of the things which are threatening to kill the “American Dream.”

The vicious hunt for dangerous thought and the gradual closing off of the avenues of free inquiry are signs, Lerner said, which can only lead to a “closed society of closed minds” in the true Kremlin manner.

WE CAN HAVE NO FEAR for the future of America as long as students continue to demand, as they did Sunday, their warm-hearted support for men like Max Lerner and their corresponding deep respect for those like Joe McCarthy.

WHEAT FOR INDIA
To the Cardinal

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter which was sent to Madame Pandit by the students who are not only sympathetic to the greatest nation, but agree that India might profit from our help.

Dear Madame Pandit,

For several months we, the Baptist Student Council, have been concerned about the situation in India. Therefore, we have decided to send a small sum of money to help with the purchase of wheat for the famine-stricken areas of India.

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve the conditions of the Indian people.

Sincerely,
[Student name]