Ch 26 Section 3 The Cold War at Home

Fear of Communist Influence

American Sentiments

- Communist takeover of Eastern Europe, China fuel fear of its spread
- 100,000 in U.S. Communist Party; some fear may be loyal to U.S.S.R.

Loyalty Review Board

- Truman accused of being soft on Communism
- Sets up Federal Employee Loyalty Program to investigate employees
- 1947–1951 loyalty boards investigate 3.2 million, dismiss 212

The House Un-American Activities Committee

- **House Un-American Activities Committee** investigates Communist ties
- Investigates Communist influence in movie industry
- **Hollywood Ten** refuse to testify, sent to prison
- Hollywood **blacklist**—people with Communist ties, cannot get work

The McCarran Act

- Act—unlawful to plan action that might lead to totalitarianism
- Truman vetoes, says violates free thought; Congress overrides veto

Spy Cases Stun the Nation

Alger Hiss

- **Alger Hiss** accused of spying for Soviet Union; convicted of perjury
- Congressman Richard Nixon gains fame for pursuing charges

The Rosenbergs

- 1949, Soviets explode atomic bomb sooner than expected
- Physicist Klaus Fuchs admits giving information about U.S. bomb
- **Ethel**, **Julius Rosenberg**, minor Communist Party activists, implicated
- Rosenbergs sentenced to death; Supreme Court upholds conviction

McCarthy Launches His "Witch Hunt"

McCarthy's Tactics

- Senator **Joseph McCarthy** a strong anti-Communist activist
- Ineffective legislator; needs issue to win reelection
- **McCarthyism**—attacking suspected Communists without evidence
- McCarthy claims Communists in State Department
- Few Republicans speak out; think he has winning strategy for 1952

McCarthy's Downfall

- 1954, McCarthy accuses members of U.S. Army
- Televised hearings show him bullying witnesses
- Loses public support; Senate condemns him for improper conduct

Other Anti-Communist Measures

- States, towns forbid speech favoring violent overthrow of government
- Millions forced to take loyalty oaths, are investigated
- People become afraid to speak out on public issues