

Transcript of Senate Resolution 301: Censure of Senator Joseph McCarthy (1954)

1. What state is McCarthy from?
2. Which Subcommittee was he uncooperative with?
3. What did the Resolution accuse Senator McCarthy of doing?
4. In the second Section, McCarthy is accused of particular actions. Name them.
5. Why do you think he used the term “lynching”?
6. How does the last few lines characterize McCarthy’s actions?
7. In your opinion, is it a serious offense to accuse someone of being a communist? Why or why not?

Answers

1. Wisconsin
2. Privileges and Elections of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
3. His conduct as a Senator, abusing members of the Subcommittee, and obstructing the constitutional process of the Senate.
4. Charging 3 members of the select committee with deliberate deception & fraud, going to the press with accusations of a lynching, and accusing Chairman Watkins of being guilty of illegal conduct, and the committee of being filled with communists.
5. Lynching is done as punishment, usually without much evidence for the crime; it is a punishment of passion.
6. His actions were disrespectful to the Senate and the constitutional process.
7. Answers will vary.