

### More than a Monologue: Sexual Diversity and the Catholic Church: Inquiry, Thought, and Expression (Catholic Practice in North America (FUP))

Phillip Deery

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More than a Monologue: Sexual Diversity and the Catholic Church: Inquiry, Thought, and Expression (Catholic Practice in North America (FUP)) Phillip Deery Set against a backdrop of mounting anti-communism, *Red Apple* documents the personal, physical, and mental effects of McCarthyism on six political activists with ties to New York City.

From the late 1940s through the 1950s, McCarthyism disfigured the American political landscape. Under the altar of anticommunism, domestic Cold War crusaders undermined civil liberties, curtailed equality before the law, and tarnished the ideals of American democracy. In order to preserve freedom, they jettisoned some of its tenets. Congressional committees worked in tandem, although not necessarily in collusion, with the FBI, law firms, university administrations, publishing houses, television networks, movie studios, and a legion of government agencies at the federal, state, and local levels to target "subversive" individuals.

Exploring the human consequences of the widespread paranoia that gripped a nation, Red Apple presents the international and domestic context for the experiences of these individuals: the House Un-American Activities Committee, hearings of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, resulting in the incarceration of its chairman, Dr. Edward Barsky, and its executive board; the academic freedom cases of two New York University professors, Lyman Bradley and Edwin Burgum, culminating in their dismissal from the university; the blacklisting of the communist writer Howard Fast and his defection from American communism; the visit of an anguished Dimitri Shostakovich to New York in the spring of 1949; and the attempts by O. John Rogge, the Committee's lawyer, to find a "third way" in the quest for peace, which led detractors to question which side he was on.

Examining real-life experiences at the "ground level," Deery explores how these six individuals experienced, responded to, and suffered from **one of the most savage assaults on civil liberties in American history**. Their collective stories illuminate the personal costs of holding dissident political beliefs in the face of intolerance and moral panic that is as relevant today as it was seventy years ago.



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