

## STATION ONE: AMERICANS IN THE COLD WAR ERA

### Prosperity Continued

Farm income remained high as the US fed millions overseas.

During the war, Americans saved \$30 billion, and now spent their savings.

Congress stimulated postwar business by cutting taxes.

Defense spending rose \$50 billion.

The Marshall Plan restored European markets for US goods.

### Women

After the war, many lost their jobs to returning servicemen, but many more remained employed than had been after World War I.

By 1952, more than 2 million women were employed than had been in 1946, most in the service industries.

Women earned 2/3 as much as men.

### African Americans

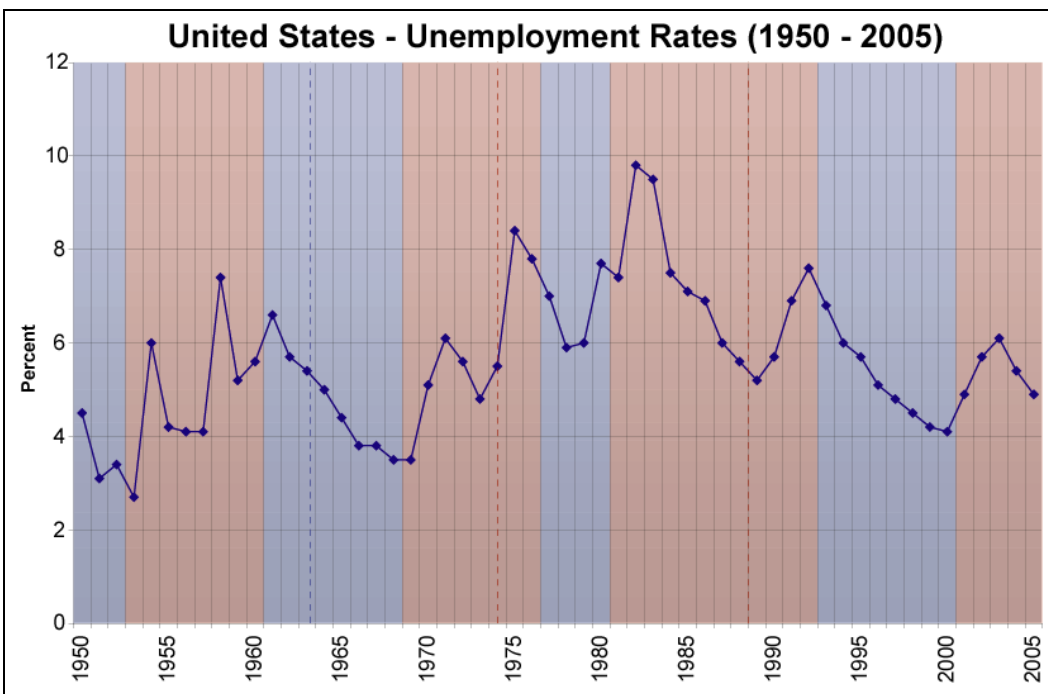
The numbers of African Americans working in white-collar, skilled, and supervisory positions tripled.

Many joined fields such as the law, nursing, and even professional sports.

The civil rights movement began to grow.

### Unions

Unions gained power during World War II, which upset many pro-business supporters in Congress.



The **Taft-Hartley Act** was passed in 1947 to modify the power of labor unions. It outlawed practices such as a closed shop (only hiring union

## STATION TWO

### Truman Announced A Fair Deal January 5, 1949

A "Fair Deal" is what President Harry Truman called his plan. He announced it in a speech on January 5, 1949. His Fair Deal recommended that all Americans have health insurance, that the minimum wage (the lowest amount of money per hour that someone can be paid) be increased, and that, by law, all Americans be guaranteed equal rights.

Truman's plans were not popular with the members of Congress. They rejected his plans for national health insurance though they did raise the minimum wage. What about equal employment rights for all Americans?

Truman also proposed the Fair Employment Practices Act, which would outlaw racial and religious discrimination in hiring. Congress passed the Employment Act in 1946 and clearly stated the government's responsibility in helping to achieve full employment.

**New York Times**  
LATE CITY EDITION  
THREE CENTS

# TRUMAN ASKS INCREASED TAXES, DEBT CUT, TAFT LABOR ACT REPEAL, AUTHORITY TO BUILD STEEL MILLS

**WIDE BACKING SEEN**  
Congress' Reaction Held Indicating Passage for Most of Program

**'SOCIALISM,' ASSERTS GOP**  
Not Many Republican Members Express an Agreement With Objectives of Proposals

**RISE OF 4 BILLIONS**  
More From Corporations and Middle and Upper Incomes Is Proposed

**FOR CURBS ON INFLATION**  
President in 8-Point Program Renews Plea for Powers to Impose Controls if Needed

**Taxing Policy Wins Leaders To Meet 42 Billion Budget**

**LABOR CHIEFS HAIL TRUMAN PROPOSALS**

**Green, Murray and Others See Own Ideas Backed, Agree to Reviving Wagner Act**

Backed by Keynesian economic theory, the government decided it was their role to create temporary jobs to minimize unemployment issues in America once veterans returned.

The new President also pushed forward the G.I. Bill that assisted veterans by offering tuition reimbursement, low-interest mortgages, and options to collect more money at a later date.

Veterans could also use money to start farms or small businesses.

Unfortunately, this program did not aid African Americans equally.

EDGAR & SNYDER  
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1963  
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**They SHOULD Be Shot—the DOGS!**  
Berlin, Germany.—(AP)—The mayor of a small upper-Saxony town found something had to be done about poaching dogs. So he had signs put up, warning dog owners "Those, who have dogs and run around without leashes, will be shot."  
A critical citizen said it should be made clear that the dogs would be shot, and not the owners. The mayor had the sign changed to read: "Those, who have dogs and run around without leashes, will be shot—the dogs."

# THE DEMOCRAT

AND LEADER

**Weather**  
Fair and warm Saturday.  
(The page 12 for details.)

5TH YEAR—No. 298 DAVENPORT, IOWA, FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 23, 1946 26 PAGES PRICE 5 CENTS

## RUSSIA HAS ATOMIC BOMB!

### U. S. Learns of Recent Explosion, President Discloses Pentagon Shows Excitement, But Officials Mum

**Bargaining In Steel Resumed**

**Strike Clouds Over Industry Are Lightened.**

Pittsburgh.—(AP)—Big Steel and the CIO United Mine Workers went back to the bargaining table Friday in an effort to avert their announced pension war and wipe out the threat of a nationwide strike.  
Union Chairman Philip Murray and Vice President John A. Stephens of U. S. Steel corporation got together in Hotel William Penn to resume negotiations under a third government mediator.  
Both declined comment as they went into conference behind closed doors.

**Russ Possession of Bomb Peace Threat, Congressmen Believe**

**ALCOA Fights Bettendorf's Adoption Plan**

**Prepares for Every Legal Step Needed to Prevent Annexation.**  
For the first time Friday the Aluminum Company of America plant east of Bettendorf openly entered into the fight against the city of Bettendorf's plan to annex a large area east of the city.

**U. S. Still Ahead of Russians**

**No Reason Seen To Believe War May Be Nearer.**

Washington.—(AP)—Secretary McNamara (D-Calif.) said Friday that if President Truman had announced an atomic explosion in Russia sooner he could have been proved of positive possession a year earlier for the long-range war.  
The chairman of the congressional atomic committee offered that statement in the Senate in answer to a resolution from Senator Clyde A. Tombaugh that the Senate should have had the information Thursday. The vote measure was passed Thursday night.  
Washington.—(AP)—There was one point of fairly general agreement Friday in every one of the 100 resolutions to news that Russia apparently has the atom bomb—the great to pass it real.  
On what to do about it there were about as many opinions



**JOHNSON QUESTIONED ON ATOM BLAST**—Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, (right) holds his jaw as he is questioned by white house newsmen after leaving a cabinet meeting Friday at which President Truman

**Details on Blast in USSR Not Revealed; Vishinsky Urges Pact**

**No Change Made in Disposition of American Forces, Johnson Declares; Political Repercussions Expected.**

New York.—(AP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Vishinsky called on the Big Five powers Friday to conclude a peace pact among themselves.  
He made no mention of an atomic explosion in the Soviet Union in his general policy address to the United Nations assembly.  
Vishinsky professed his warm approval with his usual clocking attack on the western powers.  
He charged the United States and Britain are looking ahead for an aggressive war.  
Washington.—(AP)—The United States has evidence of a recent atomic explosion in Russia—evidence indicating the Czech, scientists at long last have learned to make an Atomic Bomb.  
President Truman disclosed this in a statement Friday. He then held an hour-long session with his cabinet about it.  
Mr. Truman said the development emphasizes the necessity for "steady, effective, enforceable, international control of

### STATION THREE Loyalty Checks March 22, 1947

During World War II a ring of spies that included Americans, Canadians, and Russians, traded nuclear technology.

In 1946 a Canadian newspaper confirmed the spy ring and slowly but surely the main players in the organized operation were outed. Most of them served approximately half of their sentences around 15-30 years.

In response to these fears and concerns, Truman issued an executive order on March 21, 1947, which set up a program to check the loyalty of federal employees. In announcing his order, Truman indicated that he expected all federal workers to demonstrate "complete and unswerving loyalty" the United States. Anything less, he declared, "constitutes a threat to our democratic processes."

The basic elements of Truman's order established the framework for a wide-ranging and powerful government apparatus to perform loyalty checks. Loyalty boards were to be set up in every department and agency of the federal government. Using lists of "totalitarian, fascist, communist, or subversive" organizations provided by the attorney general, and relying on investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, these boards were to review every employee. If there existed "reasonable grounds" to doubt an employee's loyalty, he or she would be dismissed. A Loyalty Review Board was set up under the Civil Service Commission to deal with employees' appeals.

Over 2,000,000 government employees were checked and hundreds lost their jobs.

## STATION FOUR Legislation

### THE SMITH ACT - 1940

U.S. federal law passed in 1940 that made it a criminal offense to advocate the violent overthrow of the government or to organize or be a member of any group or society devoted to such advocacy.

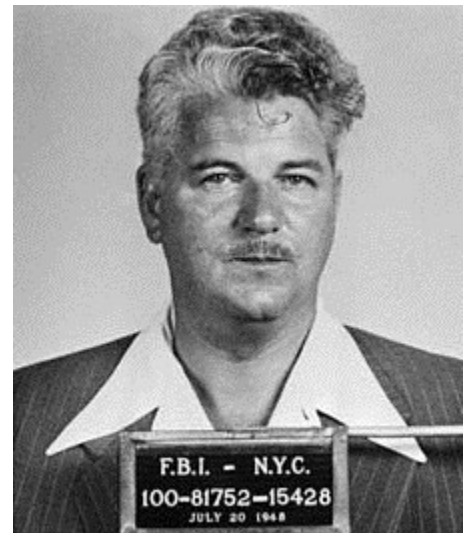
No group or person could teach another to violently overthrow the United States government and it became illegal to belong to groups that did so. It was aimed at the socialist and communist parties of the United States.

### **DENNIS ET AL v. UNITED STATES (1949)**

Eugene Dennis was the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the United States. He routinely gave speeches that advocated for the group.

Dennis and eleven other members were convicted of advocating the violent overthrow of the US government. The group argued that their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and petition were being violated.

The Court ruled that Dennis did not have the right under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to exercise free speech, publication and assembly, if the exercise involved the creation of a plot to overthrow the government.



### **YATES v. UNITED STATES (1957)**



Fourteen members of California's Communist Party were charged with violating the Smith Act. The members claimed that the Communist Party was engaged in passive political activities and that any violation of the Smith Act must involve active attempts to overthrow the government.

Chief Justice Harlan and the Supreme Court overturned their convictions in a 6-1 decision.

The Smith Act was not ruled unconstitutional but it was severely weakened and essentially became unenforceable.

The day the decision was released journalists wrote:

"[today] will go down in the history books as the day on which the Supreme Court irreparably crippled the witch hunt."



## STATION FIVE

### HUAC and Civil Rights

The House of Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was created in 1938 with the intent of finding and exposing Nazi sympathizers in the United States. In the post World War II era it has become more widely associated to investigating alleged activities of United States citizens with communism.

The committee was run by the House of Representatives and had nothing to do with Senator Joseph McCarthy's "Red Scare" movement.

### Watkins v United States

John Watkins, a member of the United Auto Workers, was summoned by Congress to answer questions regarding communist associations.

When Congress asked him to

"I am not going to plead the fifth amendment, but I refuse to answer certain questions that I believe



are outside the proper scope of your committee's activities. I will answer any questions which this committee puts to me about myself. I will also answer questions about those persons whom I knew to be members of the Communist Party and whom I believe still are. I will not, however, answer any questions with respect to others with whom I associated in the past. I do not believe that any law in this country requires me to testify about persons who may in the past have been Communist Party members or otherwise engaged in Communist Party activity but who to my best knowledge and belief have long since removed themselves from the Communist movement. "

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Watkins in a 6-1 decision. The power of the United States Congress is not unlimited in conducting investigations, and that nothing in the U.S. Constitution gives it the authority to expose individuals' private affairs.

## STATION SIX The Red Scare

### **The Rosenbergs**

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were arrested and charged with espionage and the sharing of classified information regarding the United States' nuclear program.

In 1950 the fear of communists among civilians and federal employees was peaking. Both of the Rosenbergs were found guilty amidst a controversial trial between skeptics and believers. Many believed that they were innocent victims of a witch-hunt.

Both were executed by electric chair in New York in 1953 - the only deaths linked to espionage during the era.

For over 50 years many of their supporters maintained their innocence. In former USSR leaders' memoirs it was revealed the Rosenbergs did indeed share information. Furthermore, another member in the spy ring admitted all their roles during the Cold War era at the age of 91 in 2008.



### **Dr. J Robert Oppenheimer**

One of the leading scientists in the creation of the atomic bomb for the *Manhattan Project*. Oppenheimer, upon seeing the first bomb exploded, seemed to have had a change of heart with the realization of how much destruction could be caused.

He would oppose further development of a hydrogen bomb and be declared a communist threat and his security clearances were taken away.

### **Senator, Joseph McCarthy**

In 1950 McCarthy told the public he had a list of members of the Communist Party and names within a spy ring - some of which were members of the government. His sensationalist attacks appealed to the masses and he became quite powerful.

His committee investigated actors, writers, scholars, and even government employees, frequently violating their constitutional rights. In the 21st century it has been accepted that his claims were false.

