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Senator Mike Monroney had the courage to put the issue of McCarthyism before the senate this week when he offered a bill which would authorize the senate as a whole to call a halt to investigations by any one of its members. The bill has little chance of passing, according to observers, since the close of this session is so near, but Monroney's attack showed Washington that it is still possible to stand toe to toe with McCarthy in a name-calling match and still come out unscathed.

Senator McCarthy, whose promiscuous attacks have made him the most feared man in Washington, said Oklahoma's Mike "didn't have the guts" to spell out his attack on two employees of McCarthy's sub-committee, Chief Counsel Roy M. Cohn and Consultant G. David Schine. Monroney had accused the two of behaving like "Keystone cops" during the investigation of U. S. overseas libraries in Europe.

McCarthy's answer to this was a charge that it was "anti-Semitism."

Sen. Herbert Lehman of New York, himself a Jew, came to Monroney's defense and accused McCarthy of "pure and arrant demagoguery." He said McCarthy was asked many questions by the senate elections sub-committee which he (McCarthy) doesn't dare to answer, "so he charges his fellow senators with religious bias."

Monroney chose as an example of McCarthy's hit and run tactics the McCarthy statement that former President Truman might be called to testify if McCarthy found out Truman had not given the justice department a spy list allegedly supplied by Canadian officials.

"This charge involved a crime practically amounting to treason," Monroney pointed out, "but when McCarthy later said he had been assured by the FBI that Mr. Truman withheld no information, the announcement appeared 'back among the want-ads' in newspapers."

The attack on McCarthy by easy-going Mike was a surprise to many of his friends in Oklahoma—but his stand against government by accusation has given him even greater esteem with the folks back home. If his bill to muzzle McCarthy should pass the congress, he would emerge as one of the most powerful members of the democratic minority.

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