

PAUL ROBESON

(BORN TO BE FREE)

What a job Joe McCarthy did on this country! Any self-respecting politician would sooner confess to bugging sheep than to an interest in socialism. For Christ's sake, poor stodgy old liberalism is now barely a step above child molesting. How did you do it, Joe? In one generation you eradicated radicalism, castrated the unions, resurrected know-nothingness and destroyed the health and reputation of a giant—Paul Robeson.

All right, Robeson was a communist and believed that the resources of a nation should be used to benefit the majority of its citizens. He also felt that it was not only unjust, but unwise, to concentrate wealth in the hands of an oligarchy. Harmless stuff, you might think, but the basis of Marxism - Karl not Groucho.

He had another great defect. He was a democrat and believed that the U.S. had not yet achieved democracy because it failed to guarantee the right of every citizen to vote. But his biggest problem was the color of his skin. He was black and proud of it. He knew that if he could be insulted in hotels, restaurants and on public transport, then what hope for his poverty-stricken brothers and sisters?

Now McCarthy had an ally, by name, J. Edgar Hoover. When this ravishing transvestite, paragon of family values and head of the FBI, heard that Robeson was upsetting Mom's appiecart, he became mightily displeased. So, he had Robeson's passport rescinded. Then, with the aid of other "patriotic" groups, he had his concerts banned or disrupted. By keeping him under national house arrest and taking away his means of livelihood, they silenced the man's voice—but not his spirit.

That lives on. And someday, when the country finally shakes off the spell of your lies and distortions, Joe, and seeks to heal itself by bringing all the races together, it will turn to heroes like Robeson who cherished the truth - no matter how unpopular it may have been.

Thank you, Paul. You have been an inspiration to millions of us.