Good afternoon: I'm Clifford Case, the Republican candidate for United States Senator from New Jersey. First, I would like to thank the New Jersey Republican State Committee for sponsoring this broadcast, thus making it possible for me to talk frankly with you about a vicious smear campaign -- so low that it is aimed at me through a beloved member of our family.

I think I need hardly tell you my stand on Communism. I recognized it as a ruthless, creeping conspiracy against America, and all our country stands for, years ago when many thought we could still exist in friendship and trust with Soviet Russia. I helped draft the Mundt-Nixon Bill, which became one of our country's first effective steps toward rooting out this evil. I fought to keep our armed forces strong, even at a time when they were being weakened and disbanded. And at every time and chance, I have struck a strong blow against this evil thing.

At the same time I have recognized that you cannot cure evil with evil -- that any measures which permit groups or individuals to run roughshod over innocent people are wrong. They not only violate our traditional concept of fair play, but they lead us all down the path toward misery and brutality.

Smear tactics are even more evil. Smears generate an atmosphere of suspicion, fear, and distrust among our people. They threaten our whole way of life. To the individual they bring grief and misery. To the community they bring shame and hate.

The thing that holds us together as a country is our confidence in each other. Smears destroy this confidence, and threaten the very life of our nation. Our government was founded on the principle that, as a child of God, every human being is sacred and that the dignity of the individual is a precious thing.
Perhaps you have not thought of political smears as being this dangerous -- this threatening -- this evil. Believe me, they are.

Any man in politics must expect that his opposition will take every possible advantage -- for politics is notably a rough business. But until recently I believed that there were some rules of decency, beyond which the most vindictive person would not go. Unfortunately, I seem to have been wrong.

My political record, -- all my life -- has been an open book, and there has not been a page of it of which I am ashamed.

Failing in their attacks against me personally, these ruthless men have stooped to strike at me through a member of my family.

This is not politics. It is dirty business. And it is dangerous business. I am certain the American people will have no part of it. The Case family is involved today. Tomorrow it will be someone else.

The personal grief which these false accusations and innuendos have brought to members of my family is important to me. But what is more important is the callousness shown by these vicious men who have broken all rules of decency and fair play. Their deliberate effort to obscure the real issues and to inject false allegations into the campaign must be dealt with. This I shall do, despite the fact that it involves matters of a very personal nature.

On Thursday, the Newark Star-Ledger carried a story that purported to link my younger sister Adelaide to a Communist-front activity which, in 1943, was organized to seek the release of Morris Schappes. Schappes was a New York college professor who had been sent to prison for lying about his Communist affiliations. The basis for this allegation was a statement attributed to one Bella Dodd, a former Communist, that there had been an Adelaide Case active in this group. The story was picked up by other newspapers, by radio and television throughout the country.
Prior to the appearance of this story, rumors and whispering campaigns had been widely spread by those who were so violent against me that fair play had no part in their thinking. I blame no party, although I regret to say that members of my own party were involved as well as members of the opposition. The rumors were that just before election day a "bombshell" was going to be dropped in the form of an attack on a member of my family.

The ground had been laid for these rumors by constant and carefully prepared references to my record as (quote) too liberal and too radical (unquote). Through vicious distortions of the facts -- sometimes through outright lies -- my record as a member of Congress was misrepresented to put me under a cloud of suspicion.

These attempts failed. People knew my record too well. But they did help a little to prepare the way for the big smear.

Now the big bombshell has been dropped. As an American, I'm proud to say that most of the people who have heard it, as well as most of the press that has commented on it, are angry and ashamed that it was done in a country as clean as ours.

The allegation made by this newspaper has fallen under the weight of its own irresponsibility. The Adelaide Case mentioned by Bella Dodd was not my sister. Apparently, Miss Dodd referred to another Adelaide Case who was a college professor in New York City and who died in 1949.

If the people responsible for this story had bothered to look for facts instead of being blinded by their desire to hurt me, they would have learned that the Adelaide Case Miss Dodd knew in 1943 was then a middle-aged woman. They would have found that my sister Adelaide was only 31 at the time. They would have found that my sister was then teaching physical education in Boston, and was not even in the New York area. But people who play dirty don't wait for facts.

When I learned of the story, I immediately phoned my sister who was teaching in Michigan and asked her to come East to discuss the Bella Dodd story with me. She arrived by plane Thursday afternoon. She had never heard of Miss Dodd or the activities described by Miss Dodd.
I wish the story could be ended here. But Adelaide and I believe there are some other things you should know.

A little over a year ago my sister was in a hospital under treatment for a severe nervous disorder. One day when her illness was in an acute stage, she expressed concern because she said a number of years before she had had an association with a left-wing study group. She was greatly agitated and upset. Among other things, she was fearful that this might in some way reflect on the family and me. Her account was confused and disconnected. Under the circumstances it was not possible to determine whether there was any factual basis for her concern. Naturally, I tried to reassure her and did my best to quiet her fears.

Subsequently, I saw Mr. J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI. I told him what my sister had said to me. I asked him if there were any way he could look into the matter. I told him that any information he could give me would be helpful. I did not hear from Mr. Hoover and after a time concluded that there was nothing to my sister's story.

Adelaide left the hospital last May to recuperate in the country. By September she was well enough to teach physical education again.

When I talked to her on Thursday she again referred to the study group. She recalled that she met with a small group of people that got together several times a month to discuss political issues of the wartime period. There is nothing in what she told me to suggest that this had been anything more than a completely open association -- an association which ended years ago.

Like you, I hear the rumors.

They drag my sister back and forth, mercilessly, relentlessly, cruelly. The people who are doing it know that enough of this might threaten her health again. But they do not care. What is one girl's welfare, if they can "get Case?" Big new things are going to be revealed tomorrow, they hint slyly. Maybe they are.
But this I am sure of. I know my sister. She is decent and kind. She has always been a loyal American. What she may or may not have done in illness has nothing to do with the way she feels and believes now.

I will not repudiate her. I love my sister just as dearly as you love yours! I wish there were some way I could spare her the grief and anxiety she feels this afternoon. If the wicked and unscrupulous persons who are making her suffer could only meet her and know her, I'm sure that even they would desist.

I have just one thing to say to these character-murderers: Adelaide Case is not running for the Senate of the United States. Clifford Case is the candidate. Smear me if you can. Leave my sister alone.