"I have ventured, like little wanton boys that swim on bladder, this many summers in a sea of glory, but far beyond my depth."—Cardinal Wolsey in "Henry VIII."

Washington, June 2—The little wanton boys of the U.S. Senate, who have ventured these many months to play politics with national security, were called to order yesterday by the only woman Senator, Margaret Chase Smith.

Mrs. Smith is not a great orator and she coins no catchy phrases. Her weapons are candor, honesty and common sense. When she brought them to bear on McCarthyism, a strong and cleansing wind seemed to blow through the historic chamber.

It sobered and silenced her colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—including Sen. McCarthy, who shielded his face with his hand. When she had finished her "declaration of conscience," Sen. Lehman of New York declared in a matching burst of candor: "This should have been said a long time ago."

...The Hiss case has seemed to paralyze the Democrats' faith in themselves, in their own officials and in the fairness of the American people. Weeks lengthened into months and they did not defend their own Secretary of State from the floor.

...McCarthyism in their hope that the gambler from Wisconsin would bring his long shot, another Hiss case. Influential Senators, including Taft, privately encouraged him while keeping a pious distance from his methods.

...She is a woman, a freshman, and one of that small band of G.O.P. liberals who do not now control her party.

...Mrs. Smith stepped into this vacuum of leadership with a stern reminder of the Senate's duty to keep its own house clean.

...Mrs. Smith got under their skin. Interesting—because there was nothing soft, sentimental, or what people like to call "feminine" about her approach. They attributed the power of her appeal to the fact that it was in character with women's role in life. She wants to protect the country and keep out the evil influence as women do in their homes, one said.

...The six Republicans who added their names to her declaration are pioneers in American politics. Sens. Tobey, Aiken, Morse, Ives, Thye and Hendrickson are so well adjusted, so sure of themselves, they were able gracefully to follow a woman's leadership on a major issue.

Mrs. Smith cannot fit into the conservative leadership. The Eisenhower-Smith ticket being plugged by her admirers is her best bet. Her sense of timing, so important to a politician, looks good. At home people are getting fed up with McCarthy.

...Mrs. Smith herself departs this week on her first international assignment, a UNESCO meeting in Italy. She will arrive there in June, a spokesman for the best in the American way of selling the world.
Unfair Game

While Fair Employment Practices legislation languishes in a parliamentary pigeon-hole, post-mortems on the Senate's recent burial of the measure continue. Some blame Sen. Wherry's (R-Neb.) new rule which provides that cloture can be enforced only with the approval of two-thirds of the total Senate membership (rather than two-thirds of the Senators present and voting). But the dismal fact is that even if the old rule prevailed, cloture probably would have lost by four votes. Others argue more convincingly that lax party leadership was at fault. They point out that the effort to stifle filibusters lacked a scant twelve votes—precisely the number of Senators who played truant when the decisive tally was taken. Leaders of both parties still show a painful tendency to treat the fair employment issue as if it were simply fair game for fall office-hunters. Sen. Wherry has exulted that the vote proved "the Democratic Party cannot deliver on any of its promises." Democratic regulars countercharged that, without the help of maverick Republicans, the Southern racists could have been routed. It was left to Sen. Lehman (D-N. Y.) to remind his colleagues that "this is no victory for anybody. It is a tragic defeat for the cause of equal rights for all of our people."

Unless the recent vote is reversed, we face a dismal autumn in which both major parties will negatively cry that the opposition was responsible for FEPC's demise. We call upon Democratic and Republican leaders to conduct a bipartisan drive to save FEPC with every able-bodied Senator informed that the vote is a command performance. Both parties' glittering platform pledges of equal employment rights for all remain as empty as the Senate seats of those who evaded the cloture vote.