

History, Organization, Principles, and Activities

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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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is the author of: The Road to Salesmanship, Ronald Press, 1941; May God Forgive Us, Henry Regnery, 1952; and The Life of John Birch, Henry Regnery, 1954. The Life of John Birch has been reissued in American Opinion format, and is obtainable from the Society's office, Belmont 78, Mass., for one dollar.

Mr. Welch was associated with candy manufacturers, of Cambridge, Mass. For such a period he was President, in charge of sales member of the board of directors for three years a Regional Vice President; and for two years Chairman of



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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

History, Organization, Principles, and Activities

I. Founder

Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., was born December 1, 1899, on a farm in Chowan County, North Carolina. His higher education consisted of 4 years at the University of North Carolina, 2 years at the U.S. Naval Academy, and 2 years at Harvard Law School. He moved to Boston in 1919, and to Belmont, where he now lives, about 1939. He is married and has two sons. Since the death of his father, a few years ago, he has been known as Robert Welch. He is the author of: The Road to Salesmanship, Ronald Press, 1941; May God Forgive Us, Henry Regnery, 1952; and The Life of John Birch, Henry Regnery, 1954. The Life of John Birch has been reissued in American Opinion format, and is obtainable from the Society's office, Belmont 78, Mass., for one dollar.

Mr. Welch was associated for many years with the James O. Welch Co., candy manufacturers, of Cambridge, Mass. For much of this time he was Vice President, in charge of sales and advertising. For seven years he was a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers; for three years a Regional Vice President; and for two years Chairman of the Educational Advisory Committee.

"As of January 1, 1957, Mr. Welch gave up most of his business responsibilities -- and most of his income -- in order to devote practically all of his time and energy to the anti-Communist cause."

Mr. Welch was editor and publisher of the magazine, One Man's Opinion, 1956-7, and of its successor, American Opinion, from 1958 to the present time. The Bulletin of The John Birch Society for June, 1960, announces the gift of all Robert Welch's holdings in common stock of this magazine, amounting to 86 percent of the total authorized, and of all of his holdings in preferred stock of the magazine, amounting to approximately 18 percent of the preferred stock outstanding, to The John Birch Society.

(Quotation, and most of above information, taken from: The Blue Book. Postscript, December 9, 1959. Unnumbered inserted page.)

II. Organization

Mr. Welch's opinions, as expressed in his books, May God Forgive Us, and The Life of John Birch, as well as in his magazine, One Man's Opinion, led to the decision to form a society, dedicated to the principles that Robert Welch considered to have governed the life and death of John Birch, fundamentalist missionary and American soldier killed by Chinese Communists in 1945. The actual founding of the Society came on December 9, 1958, at the conclusion of a two-day meeting in Indianapolis, in which Mr. Welch set forth for an audience of eleven influential men, from various parts of the country, the "background, methods, and purposes of The John Birch Society." The Blue Book of The John Birch Society, issued in September, 1959, is "a transcript, practically verbatim, of that presentation." (The Blue Book, Foreword to Second Printing, December 9, 1959.) The Second Printing, and later printings of The Blue Book, have contained such notes and supplements as seemed necessary to keep readers up-to-date on essential matters.

The units of the Society are the Local Chapters, "usually of from ten to twenty dedicated patriots." Each Chapter has "a Chapter Leader, appointed by headquarters... or appointed through officers of the Society, in the field, who have themselves been duly appointed by headquarters." The dues are "a minimum of \$24.00 per year for men and \$12.00 per year for women." Members not in any Local Chapter belong to the Home Chapter. They pay dues "annually in one lump sum," and their contact with headquarters is "largely through printed bulletins." (The Blue Book, p. 163-5.) Robert Welch has the title of Founder, and is the chief officer of the Society. Council Members, listed and identified in the Bulletin for February, 1960, were officially appointed in December, 1959, as announced in the January, 1960, Bulletin. The Blue Book, in its later printings, contains the list of Council Members, on unnumbered pages near the end. The function of the Council is here stated as: "(1) to show the stature... of the leadership of the Society; (2) to give... advice and guidance...; and (3) to select... a Successor [to the Founder]." Another title used in the organization is "Coordinator." The position of Coordinator is sketched in the original plan, in this form: "We shall have a paid staff man, with the title of Coordinator, for each area of the proper size. Above these Coordinators, in time, we shall have supervisors with the rank or title of Major Coordinators." (The Blue Book, p. 165.) These officers are enumerated, with some uncertainty as to title, in an accounting early in 1961: "We now have a staff of twenty-eight people in the Home Office; about thirty Coordinators (or Major Coordinators) in the

field, who are fully paid as to salary and expenses, and about one hundred Coordinators (or Section Leaders as they are called in some areas), who work on a volunteer basis [in whole or in part]." (The Blue Book, Postscript, March 15, 1961, p. 175.)

III. Principles

The purpose of The John Birch Society is condensed by Robert Welch in this statement: "The whole essence of our purpose, and the guiding principle for our action, covering not only our fight against collectivism but our fight for our constructive replacement, can be summarized in the objective expressed by just five words: Less government and more responsibility." (The Blue Book, p. 127.)

The Society's political philosophy is expressed in the slogan, "This is a republic, not a democracy -- Let's keep it that way!" The use of the slogan on Pitney-Bowes postage meters, for the Society's headquarters and for various members of the Society, has been the subject of long-continued controversy, comments on which occur frequently in the Bulletin. A full discussion of the matter is in the Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 8-10. A remark on the subject, much quoted in criticism of the Society, is: "Democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud." (The Blue Book, p. 159.) A fuller expression of this point of view is given in the Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 9: "In the realm of political science the long-range, insidious, and conspiratorial attempt to change our republic into a democracy, and to make the American people believe that they are supposed to have a democracy,

is the very key to what has been happening. And in the whole half a century that this campaign has been going on, nothing has occurred nearly as effective in waking up patriotic Americans to the whole dangerous fraud as the impact of these stickers and the message they impart."

An interpretation of domestic politics, resulting from the application of this general theory to immediate events, is this comment on the Presidential campaign of 1960: "The present political campaign is a struggle between Walter Reuther, through his longtime stooge, Kennedy, and Nelson Rockefeller, through his newly acquired stooge, Nixon, to determine which one, Reuther or Rockefeller, is to be boss of the United States under a one-world international socialist government." (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 10.)

The Society's view of foreign affairs is reflected in this summary: "Poland was lost to Stalin's Lublin Gang; Yugoslavia was lost to Stalin's hatchet man, Tito; China was lost to Moscow's agent, Mao Tse-tung; and thus one country after another was lost to the Communists -- primarily through treason in our government. Batista lost Cuba, Syngman Rhee lost South Korea, Adenauer may soon lose West Germany, and Trujillo may eventually lose the Dominican Republic, largely because of the support in our government for their Communist enemies." (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 9-10.)

Conduct of the Society's own operations is characterized by the statement: "The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body." (The Blue Book, p. 158.) The statement is amplified on the next page: "The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritarian control

at all levels." (The Blue Book, p. 159.)

Mr. Welch defends the Society against charges of racist views by statements such as the following: "We have refused to accept just one chapter since the Society was founded, and this was because of the extreme racist views of some of its prospective members. How little we go along with such views is shown by the fact that we have two all-Negro chapters, of which we are very proud, and several chapters in northern states with good citizens of both white and colored races who meet together." (The Blue Book, Footnotes for the Fourth Printing, p. xv-xvi.)

Among policies advocated by The John Birch Society for the government of the United States are the following: retention of the Connally Amendment (Bulletin for February, 1960, p. 15; for March, 1960, p. 8-9); continuation of our exclusive sovereignty over the Panama Canal (Bulletin for March, 1960, p. 8); continuation of the House Committee on Un-American Activities -- "The very first task to which we should turn our hands this month... is support of the House Committee on Un-American Activities." -- (Bulletin for June, 1960, p. 9-16; the retention of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law (Bulletin for May, 1960, p. 15); holding the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo (Bulletin for March, 1960, p. 8); economic sanctions against Cuba -- "Stop subsidizing the Cuban economy, for the benefit of the Communists, through our sugar quota -- to the extent of approximately 160 million dollars per year in the price we pay Cuba for sugar above the world market." -- (Bulletin for March, 1960, p. 8); support Premier Moise Tshombe of Katanga (Bulletin for September, 1960, p. 29); and

withdraw diplomatic recognition from the Soviet Union (Bulletin for April, 1960, p. 9-11).

Communist aims for the United States, as seen by The John Birch Society, are:

1. "Greatly expanded government spending..."
2. "Higher... taxes."
3. "An increasingly unbalanced budget..."
4. "Wild inflation of our currency..."
5. "Government controls of prices, wages, and materials..."
6. "Greatly increased socialistic controls over every operation of our economy and every activity of our daily lives..."
7. "Far more centralization of power in Washington..."
8. "The steady advance of Federal aid to and control over our educational system, leading to complete federalization of our public education."
9. "A constant hammering into the American consciousness of the horror of 'modern warfare,' the... absolute necessity of 'peace' -- peace always on Communist terms, of course."
10. "... willingness of the American people to allow the steps of appeasement by our government which amount to a piecemeal surrender of the rest of the free world and of the United States itself to the Kremlin-ruled tyranny." (The Blue Book, p. 33-4.)

In consequence both of the Society's own principles, and of this view of Communist aims, the Society has opposed various present or

contemplated governmental policies, as indicated by the following selected quotations:

Disarmament: "We are aware of the terrible foreshadowing of American surrender in the 'Disarmament' trap." (Bulletin for October, 1961, p. 10.)

Education: According to the Constitution, the Federal Government has absolutely nothing to do, legally, with public education..." (The Blue Book, Footnotes For The Fourth Printing, p. xvi.)
"The unceasing drive for increasing Federal Aid to Education strikes at the very foundations of Americanism, and ought to be stopped." (Bulletin for June, 1960, p. 30.)

Fluoridation of water supplies: "Our members should oppose fluoridation of water supplies at every opportunity!" (Bulletin for December, 1959, p. 8-9.)

Flying the flag of Panama over the Canal Zone: "... the treacherous act of raising the Panama flag over the Canal Zone..." (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 18-9.)

Foreign Aid: "... American foreign aid... has been a tremendous help to the advance of Communism. It was planned by the Communists for that purpose." (The Blue Book, p. 32.) "The undersigned American citizen respectfully urges the discontinuance of all 'foreign aid' except for strictly military assistance to our unquestionably anti-Communist allies..."
(From petition to be sent to Members of Congress. Bulletin

for June, 1960, p. 16-24.) "... the giving of American Foreign Aid to Tito and Gomulka and Sukarno... is not due to softheadedness. This is deliberate support of Communist regimes by an American government acting under Communist influences." "The sending of a quarter of a million dollars to our arch enemy, Castro, for military aid -- which our government has done right within the past three months -- is still plain unadulterated treason to the United States." (Bulletin for July, 1960, p. 4-5.)

Integration: "We are bitterly opposed to forced integration, in schools or anywhere else..." "... all of the trouble over integration -- which is doing inestimable damage to both the black and white races -- is Communist inspired, encouraged, and implemented for Communist purposes." (The Blue Book, Footnotes For The Fourth Printing, p. xvi.)

"Internationalism": "... internationalism, as it is conceived and promoted today, is an attempt to impose more government and a more centralized one-world government on all of us everywhere. For that reason it is automatically contrary to everything we stand for, and one of the movements we shall oppose with all the strength we can." (The Blue Book, p. 162-3.)

Marshall Plan: "... basically a brilliant scheme of the Communists to get the United States to do exactly what the Communists wanted us to do, but to do it under the guise of fighting Communism." (Bulletin for June, 1960, p. 17-9.)

Metro Government: "... a scheme, deriving most of its ultimate behind-the-scenes backing from the Communists, for wiping out traditional government in this country and for eventually making more efficient the transmission of the orders and power of a centralized tyranny right down to the grass-roots level." (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 17.)

Military expenditures: "Although our danger remains almost entirely internal, from Communist influences right in our midst and treason right in our government, the American people are being persuaded that our danger is from the outside, is from Russian military superiority. And under the excuse of preparing to match that military might, of defending ourselves from this threat of outside force; in other words, under the guise of fighting Communism, we are being stampeded into the biggest jump ever towards, and perhaps the final jump right into, socialism and then the Communist camp." (The Blue Book, p. 32.)

Welfare: "We do not want any welfare state at home. Mr. Kennedy has received no mandate for establishing any more of a welfare state than we already have." (Bulletin for December, 1960, p. 12.)

Some of the opinions of The John Birch Society have not been translated into action, or even into the advocacy of action, because of a realistic view of the unlikelihood of success. "We have not believed... that there was the slightest chance of having our government take over Cuba and throw out Castro by military force. Nor of persuading the

Administration to discard its idiotic 'peace corps'; nor of getting the United Nations out of the United States at the present time; nor even of abolishing that monstrosity, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare..." (Why Join The John Birch Society [undated leaflet].)

IV. Activities

No membership figures are published. One of the activities frequently urged upon the members, however, is the recruiting of new members, and one of the first aims of the Society, at its inception, was to build itself into a body impressive in numerical strength. "We are out to get a million members truly dedicated to the things in which we believe." (The Blue Book, p. 165.)

The Society's program is set forth in these terms: "Since defeat of the Communist conspiracy overshadows all other objectives at the present time, our action program for the near future breaks down into ten categories:

1. Dissemination of Americanist books and pamphlets as widely as possible;
2. increasing the circulation and leadership of the best Americanist periodicals;
3. enlarging the audiences of Americanist commentators and newscasters on radio and television;
4. making more effective use -- through better planning, direction, and coordination -- of the weapon of letter writing;
5. organizing Americanist fronts for many different purposes, including the widespread use of petitions in some instances;

6. waking up the American people to the seriousness of our danger by exposing, wherever possible, the pro-Communist activities of Communist sympathizers;

7. making it more difficult for hundreds of pro-Communist speakers to appear before thousands of unsuspecting audiences;

8. making Americanist speakers available for audiences which are now, simply by default, at the mercy of pro-Communist lecturers;

9. supplying encouragement and renewed hope and determination to anti-Communist refugee groups throughout our country; and

10. carrying on an educational campaign on the political front, so that our members will understand better, -- and can help their fellow citizens to understand better -- the issues and candidates offered to them by both political parties." (From Our Mail... Appreciation and Encouragement [undated pamphlet], p. 26-7.)

We shall list, briefly, some of the specific activities in which the Society has engaged under each of these headings.

1. Dissemination of Americanist books and pamphlets. Hundreds of books listed and recommended in issues of the Bulletin, and of American Opinion. Members urged to recommend five books a month to be made available in their public libraries. Low-priced reprints issued in American Opinion format. Recommending that members patronize such services as The Bookmailer, in New York, and Poor Richard's Book Shop, in Los Angeles (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 14.) Currently offered by American Opinion is a set of reprints, under the title, "One Dozen Candles," of twelve

books selected to convince readers of the validity of the Society's interpretation of recent American history. (Bulletin for October, 1961, p. [14-5].)

2. Americanist periodicals. Among periodicals recommended in various issues of the Bulletin are the following: American Mercury (October, 1960, p. 4); American Opinion, repeatedly endorsed and recommended in the Bulletin -- majority share of common stock, and 18 percent of outstanding preferred stock, given by Robert Welch to the John Birch Society, Inc. (June, 1960, p. 24-8); Dan Smoot Report (October, 1960, p. 4); Human Events (January, 1960, p. 13-4); The Independent American (October, 1960, p. 4); Intelligence Digest, Alderbourne Manor, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, England ("... we have no hesitation in recommending Intelligence Digest to our members who can afford the time and the money to add it to their regular sources of information..." September, 1961, p. 2); National Review (October, 1960, p. 4); The Truth, Inc., published by the Political Science Club of Marquette University High School under the guidance of Rev. Cletus Healy, S.J. "... we... emphatically recommend distribution to High School students..." (October, 1961, p. [12]).

3. Americanist commentators and newscasters. The Society has recommended for members' listening and support: Hubert Kregeloh (no longer broadcasting), "A solidly conservative strongly anti-Communist analyst of the news." (The Blue Book, p. 82); Fulton Lewis, Jr., "Lewis does not always agree with us nor we with him. But he has done an extremely valuable job for the Americanist cause over many years, and now

is a most suitable time for American patriots to show a very avalanche of appreciation..." (Bulletin for October, 1961, p. 9); Dean Manion, Billy James Hargis, and Carl McIntyre, "... the radio broadcasts of Dean Manion, or Billy James Hargis, or Carl McIntyre, or several other great Americanists with a huge radio following." (The Blue Book, Footnotes For The Fourth Printing, p. viii); and Dan Smoot, "Of course where television programs 'on our side' can be profitably supported by commercial sponsorship, as in the case of Dan Smoot's broadcasts, they are immensely helpful." (The Blue Book, Footnotes For The Fourth Printing, p. viii).

4. Letter writing. Much of this is done, not directly by members of the Society as such, but under the name of an "Americanist front," or committee. An outstanding example of a letter-writing campaign conducted by the Society in its own name is the effort in 1961 in support of S. Res. 191, and in appeal to the members of the Subcommittee set up under that Resolution: "(a) Write yourself to every one of the Senators on the Subcommittee. Tell them that you want, and that a lot of other patriotic Americans want: (1) A thorough general investigation of the background, purposes, and impact on officer morale, of the Fulbright Memorandum; (2) an equally thorough but specific investigation of the removal from command, and 'admonishment,' of Major General Edwin A. Walker; (c) a clear-cut statement to be required of Secretary of Defense McNamara and of his appropriate aides and associates as to whether the 1958 directive of the National Security Council -- under which General Walker's pro-blue program and many similar programs by other high-ranking officers were being conducted -- has been abrogated, and if so by whose

order or authority; and (d), the road cleared by this investigation for the removal of every obstacle to our patriotic officers in command positions giving the men under them -- and all civilians around their posts who are interested -- as realistic an understanding of the nature and methods of our Communist enemy as is practicable under sound military-organization procedures." (Bulletin for October, 1961, p. 7). After some discussion, the members are urged: "(b) Bring into the act, to the best of your ability, every officer of the Armed Services that you know, especially retired officers in your area, and especially the members of the National Guard and the Reserves. Persuade them to write letters, contact others, and take other appropriate actions exactly as you are doing." "(c) ... Every one of our members has patriotic friends in one or more of these states [the States represented by the Senators on the Subcommittee]... Ask these friends to get into the fight..." "(d) Write editors, radio and television commentators..." "(e) Write, wire, or personally contact other Conservative Senators..." "(f) And above all write Senator Thurmond..." (Bulletin for October, 1961, p. 8).

5. Americanist fronts. These are organizations or activities, for specific purposes, either initiated by The John Birch Society or approved and endorsed by it. Among them are: American Opinion Speakers Bureau, Brookfield, Mass. (Bulletin for October, 1961, p. 11); College Graduates Against Educating Traitors At Government Expense. (Bulletin for January, 1960, p. 9); Committee Against Summit Entanglements, "Our one large national front to date, ... and by far our most successful effort in this category, ..." (The Blue Book, Footnotes For The Fourth Printing, p. ix-x); Committee for Withdrawal of Recognition [projected]... "for

withdrawal of diplomatic recognition from Russia and the satellite governments." (The Blue Book, p. 88); Committee of One Million, "devoted specifically to the job of keeping Red China out of the United Nations." (The Blue Book, p. 87); Committee to Investigate Communist Influences at Vassar College [projected] (The Blue Book, p. 91); Committee to Protest the Firing of Medford Evans [projected] (The Blue Book, p. 90); Emergency Committee to Reconvene Congress (to protest the flying of the Panamanian flag on the same level as our own over the Panama Canal), "... in no way a project... of our Society... But we did approve of the Emergency Committee's purposes." (Bulletin for October, 1960, p. 7-11); Movement to Impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren, "While this movement has been started as a direct activity of the Society,... it will probably become a national front movement in due course,..." (The Blue Book, Footnotes For The Fourth Printing, p. x-xi); Orfit, "an organization for repeal of the income tax..." (The Blue Book, p. 87); Women Against Labor Union Hoodlumism [projected] (The Blue Book, p. 91), eventually formed as Women for Law and Order, "We have initiated the formation of a national committee... its first immediate objective will be to publicize, and mobilize sentiment against, labor union hoodlumism." (Bulletin for October, 1959, p. 5-6).

Another activity suggested to members, akin to that of the Americanist fronts, is the approach to the Parent Teacher Associations: "Join your local PTA at the beginning of the school year, get your conservative friends to do likewise, and go to work to take it over." (Bulletin for September, 1960, p. 27, an injunction repeated and amplified in the

Bulletin for December, 1960, p. 14-7).

Among petitions to be sent by members are: A Petition to Impeach Earl Warren (The Blue Book, p. 91); A Petition to the Airplane Pilots Association to Grow Up [projected] (The Blue Book, p. 92); and two petitions of the Committee Against Summit Entanglements, "Please, Mr. President, Don't Go!" [projected] (The Blue Book, p. 93-4), and "Dear President Eisenhower -- If you go, don't come back!" (Bulletin for May, 1960, p. 21-4, and for June, 1960, p. 6-9).

6. Exposing the pro-Communist activities of Communist sympathizers.

Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, President of the National Council of Churches, "... affiliated with at least seventeen organizations and enterprises which followed the Communist line..." (Bulletin for September, 1960, p. 20-3). Milovan Djilas. "... who is supposed to be in disgrace in Yugoslavia..." (The Blue Book, p. 100).

Senator J. William Fulbright. "A growing effort of many command officers in our military services to use our uniformed forces and military strength to fight this enemy with educational and propaganda weapons has just been completely stopped by Senator Fulbright and all of the sinister influences behind him." (Why Join The John Birch Society [undated leaflet]).

Gordon Hall. "He and his fellow toilers for the Communist cause all follow the pattern... established by Avedis Boghis Derounian, otherwise known as John Roy Carlson, author of the libelous book Undercover which viciously smeared many good American patriots..." (The Blue Book, p. 103).

Dag Hammarskjöld. "... the question arises as to how long we are going to allow this nauseating hypocrite and toady of the Kremlin (as his

father was before him) to keep on strutting his stuff in our country." (Bulletin for December, 1959, p. 9).

Langston Hughes. "The obscene blasphemies of Langston Hughes have not been made any less depraved by the fact that they have been recommended in reading lists put out by the National Council of Churches." (Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 6).

Boris Pasternak. "... who is supposed to be suffering bitter enmity of the dictators in Russia..." (The Blue Book, p. 100-1).

Drew Pearson. "The calumnies of Drew Pearson are not made any the less despicable by his being syndicated in a hundred newspapers." (Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 6).

Eleanor Roosevelt. "Please do not expect us to be able to supply you conclusive documented evidence at once to prove that Eleanor Roosevelt is what we think she is." (Bulletin for February, 1961, p. 7).

Franklin Delano Roosevelt. "At the time of Pearl Harbor, and in the early years thereafter, it would have been absolutely fatal to Franklin D. Roosevelt and George Catlett Marshall for the part they had played in bringing on that catastrophe to have become known to the American people... For the real facts... constituted plain unadulterated treason on the part of both Marshall and himself." (The Blue Book, p. 99).

Representative James Roosevelt. "The adulteries of Jimmy Roosevelt, so widely publicized a few years ago, were not any lesser violations of the Sixth Commandment simply because the perpetrator is a Congressman trying to do away with the House Committee on Un-American Activities." (Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 6).

Whitney North Seymour. "The pro-Communist absurdities of Whitney North

Seymour have not been made any less destructive of patriotic purposes by the fact that he managed to get elected President of the American Bar Association." (Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 6, and p. 21-2).

Frank Sinatra. "... the whole career and character of Frank Sinatra are not made any the less disgusting by his having made friends in high places." (Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 6).

Chief Justice Earl Warren. "We are demanding that Warren be impeached by the House, because we are convinced that the evidence of his abuse of his high office is amply sufficient to warrant his arraignment." (Bulletin for January, 1961, p. 5-20).

Senator Stephen M. Young. "... Senator Young, in associating his name in this way with the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, and whether he knew it or not, had already become a tool, and a very useful tool, of the Communist apparatus." (Bulletin for January, 1960, p. 14-6).

Groups are similarly identified as serving Communist causes:

American Bar Association. "... its nose -- by which it is being led -- is turning crimson." (Bulletin for March, 1960, p. 7).

American Friends of Vietnam. "... we are now being more and more divided and deceived, by accepting within our walls more and more Trojan horses... Some... drain off... money and effort... Others are primarily designed to offer protective coloration to Communists... Others, like the very pretentious American Friends of Vietnam, in my opinion form major parts of a whole plan and drive for gradually turning some country over to the Communists, while pretending to be leading the opposition." (The Blue Book, p. 160).

American Veterans Committee. "... stands in about the same relation to the American Legion as the National Lawyers Guild does to the American

Bar Association." (Bulletin for February, 1960, p. 14-5).

Americans for Democratic Action. "... the ADA, whether a lot of its members know it or not, is the same as an arm of the Communist Party."

(The Blue Book, p. 117).

Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (SANE). "... the advertisements of these people should really read as follows: STOP MISSILE TESTS. LET MANKIND LIVE (Under Communism). This advertisement sponsored by THE GREATER SAPHHEAD COMMITTEE FOR AN INSANE NUCLEAR POLICY." (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 17).

Committee for Effective Use of the International Court -- by Repealing the Self-Judging Reservation. (Bulletin for July, 1960, p. 6-7).

Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. "... has been officially declared a Communist front by two different Congressional Committees." (Bulletin for January, 1960, p. 14-5).

Friends of Democracy. (The Blue Book, p. 104).

Fund for the Republic. "... the notorious Fund for the Republic..."

(Bulletin for September, 1961, p. 21).

Kennedy appointees to office. "It makes little difference whether any of these appointees are actual Communists or not. Almost to a man are they visibly in favor of a one-world socialist government, and will do anything they can to bring it about." (Bulletin for January, 1961, p. 2).

National Council of Churches. "... there are -- as the leading students of the subject all agree -- more than seven thousand Protestant clergymen actively helping the Communists to make dangerous propaganda and pressure weapons out of the National Council of Churches and some other church

organizations." (Bulletin for April, 1960, p. 18-9).

National Education Association. "We readily admit we did not know that the baleful influence of the leftwingers in the National Education Association had been quite so thoroughly established over the PTA as well." (Bulletin for December, 1960, p. 14-7).

Supreme Court. "We are aware that the whole Supreme Court is a nest of socialists and worse." (Bulletin for January, 1961, p. 10-1).

United Nations. "... until the intended Communist Internationale now called the United Nations has been wiped out or made over from the bottom up, our attitude towards so-called internationalism is made clear and uncompromising by the stated purpose of the Society." (The Blue Book, p. 163).

UNRRA. "Even in the very earliest days of 'foreign aid,' UNRRA money was used primarily to enable Madame Sun Yat-sen in China, Menshikov in Poland, Tito in Yugoslavia, and other Kremlin agents elsewhere, to herd the Communist sheep into corrals supplied with food, and starve the anti-Communist goats, in their respective countries." (Bulletin for June, 1960, p. 16-7).

United World Federalists. "... just one of the many left-wing organizations promoting a one-world government." (Bulletin for August, 1960, p. 1506).

7. Making it more difficult for pro-Communist speakers. Various techniques of questioning and harrassment are suggested in The Blue Book and in Bulletins.

8. Making Americanist speakers available. This is now to be done through the American Opinion Speakers Bureau, whose formation is announced in the Bulletin for October, 1961, p. 11.

9. Encouraging anti-Communist refugee groups. This activity does not seem to be reflected in issues of the Bulletin, except indirectly.

10. Carrying on an educational campaign. This is done through the Bulletin and American Opinion, through book lists and reprints, through support given to speakers, anti-Communism schools, and the showing of such motion pictures as "Communism on the Map" and "Operation Abolition."

The connection of The John Birch Society with the showing of these pictures is indicated by these quotations: "During the past few months members of The John Birch Society have also been responsible for probably tens of thousands of showings of Communism on the Map. This is a film strip depicting the steady geographical advance of Communism over the earth during the past four decades, and especially during the last fifteen years. It was created by an ardent member of The John Birch Society, drawing upon at least some of our materials." (The Blue Book, Postscript, March 15, 1961, p. 176).

"Over the past few months... members of The John Birch Society have been responsible for thousands of showings of the film of the San Francisco student riots, called Operation Abolition." (The Blue Book, Postscript, March 15, 1961, p. 176).

Main attacks upon The John Birch Society have been made on the basis of opinions expressed by Robert Welch in The Politician. Mr. Welch has pointed out that these opinions were "expressions of opinion in an unpublished confidential manuscript of the nature of a letter." (Bulletin

for August, 1960, p. 5-8), and that they were not necessarily agreed with, or even known, by many members of the Society.

The Politican, long circulated only privately, and unavailable to the Legislative Reference Service at the time of the original compilation of this report, is an extended attack upon Dwight D. Eisenhower and his associates and appointees. Much-quoted passages from this work, found on pages 267 and 268, are the following:

"While I too think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for thirty years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct. But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put this conviction beyond a reasonable doubt." "... there is only one possible word to describe his [Dwight D. Eisenhower's] purposes and actions. That word is treason."

Similar attacks, which are not quoted verbatim, are made in this book upon John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, Chief Justice Earl Warren, former Defense Secretary Neil McElroy, and "dozens of others." A phrase quoted from the attack upon McElroy has him "doing the Communists' work for them with energy and determination."

A chronological account of the activities of the Society, in the form of a summary of the contents of successive issues of the Bulletin, is appended to this Report.

Supplement

Chronology of The John Birch Society, taken from issues of the Society's Bulletin, July, 1959, to October, 1961.

July, 1959. Promoting Committee Against Summit Entanglements (CASE).

Recommending booklet published by Citizens Foreign Aid Committee.

Urging that members get libraries to keep available five named conservative books. Protesting exclusion of Nationalist China and admission of Communist China in Olympic Games. Backing Jacques Soustelle. Enclosing "flyer," The Ten Pillars of Economic Wisdom, put out by The American Economic Foundation.

August, 1959. Reporting on delay of summit conference, expected admission of "the Olympic Committee of the Republic of China" to Olympic Games, and success of campaign to remove UN insignia from Christmas decorations in Boston department stores. Announcing forthcoming Blue Book, to be published in September. Naming some State Coordinators.

September, 1959. Recounting activities of CASE, advertisements published in periodicals, petitions sent to White House, letters, personal contacts. Recommending further activities against summit conference and Khrushchev visit. Proposing circulation of copies of Dan Smoot Report of June 15, 1959, on Foundations. Lists five more books to be recommended to public libraries.

October, 1959. Reporting qualified success of CASE campaign, and associated efforts. Commending stand of Senators Dodd and Bridges

on Khrushchev visit. Recommending 100 books listed in American Opinion, Jan., 1959, and to be supplied by The Bookmailer.

Recommending magazines: Human Events, The Dan Smoot Report, National Review, The Freeman, American Opinion, The American Statesman, American Mercury, The Independent American, The Wanderer, U.S.A., and Economic Council Letter. Announcement of availability of Blue Book.

November, 1959. Reporting on radio program, Dangers of Apathy, on success of campaign to keep UN insignia from Christmas decorations in Boston department stores, on encouragement of Jacques Soustelle, on achievement of JBS Chapter in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in having schools celebrate United States Day instead of United Nations Day. Attacking Kaiser Steel Corporation for agreement with labor union. Proposing letters on various topics to Newsweek and Life. Letter of encouragement to Chiang Kai-shek urged. Five more conservative books listed for libraries. Asks names of conservatives for mailing list. Proposes setting up information center for material dealing with such topics as "UNICEF, or Fluoridation, or Metro Government..."

Reprint of hostile letter to Khrushchev from Farm and Ranch Magazine, October, 1959. "The Hymn of Defiance," with music.

December, 1959. "... list of opponents of the Communist conspiracy, whose deaths were more than passing strange." Manning Johnson, Povl Bang-Jensen, Bob Taft, Joe McCarthy, John Peurifoy, James Forrestal.

Statistics of Society as of December 9, 1959: 7 full-time paid Coordinators, 5 Volunteer Coordinators, one to 12 chapters in each of

15 listed States, and Home Chapter members in about 25 States.

Criticism of Edgar F. Kaiser and his Defense Department contracts.

Discussion of uncontrolled distribution of Blue Book, and of

probable infiltration of Society by Communists. Sample letter to

American Airlines to urge placing of Human Events in racks on planes.

National Review scheduled for similar treatment later. Encloses

copy of Dan Smoot Report, Sept. 28, 1959, on Fluoridation.

Recommends The American Fluoridation Experiment, by Waldbott and

Exner. Views cranberry ban as "a carefully planned and deliberate

part of a very extensive program to make all American business more

fearful of government power, more subservient to bureaucratic

tyranny, and more completely under political control." Proposing

establishment of conservative reading rooms.

January, 1960. Reproduces letter from Newsweek admitting substantial

errors in story on French Red Hand, FLN, and violence in Algeria.

Suggests provision in reading rooms of occasional liberal or pro-

Communist books, with red warning sticker of Society disapproval.

Lists 5 more books for public libraries. Urges use of slogan, "The

summit leads to disaster!" Announces free distribution of "Freedom

Pens" from Paul C. Fisher, Fisher Pen Company, with history of re-

fusal to furnish payroll information to Internal Revenue agents.

Praises Stanley Yankus, Vivian Kellems, Bracken Lee, and Mary Cain

for similar refusals. Criticises Senator Stephen M. Young for

speaking at dinner sponsored by Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

Supports Soustelle position in Algeria. Announces establishment of Council of Society in December, 1959. Discusses inflation and opposes purchase of U.S. Government bonds. Lists 97 approved books, obtainable from The Bookmailer.

February, 1960. Lists and identifies Council members. Progress reports on distribution of pens, books, and stickers, and on campaign of College Graduates Against Educating Traitors At Government Expense. More about Newsweek and Algeria. Urges letters of encouragement to Syngman Rhee; postcards to Henry Cabot Lodge: "Two questions, Mr. Lodge -- Who murdered Bang-Jensen? and Which side are you on?" Postcards offered, with cartoons, and message: "Stay Away -- U.S.A. The Summit Leads To Disaster," for sending to Members of Congress, Federal officials, and centers of the dissemination of news and comment. Urges the recruiting of new members.

Bulletin for March, 1960. "Many of our leaders of both parties are, for the temporary advancement of their political ambitions, helping with all their clever might to bring about this surrender [to Communist Tyranny]." Account of toleration of wide varieties of opinion within Society. Announces establishment of Research Department under Dr. Francis X. Gannon. Explains policy of concentrating on certain few projects, so as to exert maximum force on them, while omitting other desirable efforts. More on College Graduates Against Educating Traitors At Government Expense, on defeating Fluoridation, on putting 5 more conservative books into public libraries, on recruiting members, on postponing or canceling summit conference. Lists

96 additional approved books obtainable from The Bookmailer. Bulletin for April, 1960. Plea for restoration of moral values. Account of Castro-supported attempt at revolution in Dominican Republic. Accuses Betancourt government of Venezuela of implication. Discusses Senator Barry Goldwater and his book, The Conscience of a Conservative. With regard to Presidential campaign, Welch pledges his personal support to Goldwater for the Republican nomination, but says of the Society: "The John Birch Society merely wants each of its members to use his or her own best judgement in such matters." Lists Members of Congress with key to their Committee assignments. Proposes letters to prevent presentation of Marc Blitzstein opera on Sacco-Vanzetti case. Urges support of National Rifle Association campaign against registration of firearms. Praises radio and television broadcasts by Wayne Foucher, Fulton Lewis, Jr., Dean Manion, Dan Smoot, Paul Harvey, Carl McIntyre, Bob Siegrist, Kent Courtney, and Marcia Matthews. Defends Air Force Manual and supports its attack upon the National Council of Churches.

Bulletin for May, 1960. Reprints National Program Letter commending Society. Praises National Education Program, and also Tom Anderson's Farm and Ranch, which had similarly commended the Society in its April issue. Five more books suggested for libraries. Other radio and television programs recommended: Dr. Billy James Hargis; "Party Line," moderated by Joe Fribley. Criticises courses in "Practical Politics" for businessmen, and "Free Enterprise and the American Way of Life" for plant foremen, offered by the United States Chamber of

Commerce. Lists recent pro-Communist developments. Encloses reprint of article on disarmament and world government, from DAR Magazine, Jan., 1960. Reprints Dean Manion broadcast on summit conferences. Accuses high State Department officials, unnamed, of treasonable complicity in Communist takeover of South Korea. Announces death of Alfred Kohlberg and his replacement on Council by M. T. Phelps, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona.

June, 1960. Postponement of summit conference applauded, credited to 600,000 Society postcards, "Stay Away -- U.S.A.," member letters to White House, DAR efforts, work of Senators Bridges and Goldwater, Dean Manion broadcast, etc. Justification of slogan, "If You Go -- Don't Come Back!" Advocates letters in support of House Committee on Un-American Activities; campaign to abolish foreign aid; and support for the magazine, American Opinion, now owned by Society. Further comments on U. S. Chamber of Commerce courses.

July, 1960. Essay on treason in U.S. government, press, television, radio, education, religious councils, labor unions, business system, "and every segment... of our national life." Suggested possibilities for influencing Republican Convention and Platform; support for Americanist broadcasters; progress of campaign against fluoridation; Society's need of contributions above dues. List of delegates to Republican National Convention.

August, 1960. Growth of Society described in general terms. Account of Chicago Daily News attack on Society. Explanation of The Politician, and denial of connection between that writing and Society.

Proposes recruiting members, attending and recommending anti-Communist schools, using Americanist book services, boycotting mails from Communist countries, discrediting United World Federalists on local level. Robert Welch dissociates himself from Moral Re-armament, Metro Government, and SANE. Reproduces letter from Representative Daniel J. Flood to Christian A. Herter, Secretary of State, threatening impeachment should the Panama flag be flown over the Canal Zone with the knowledge of the State Department. Recommends J. Edgar Hoover report, Communist Target -- Youth, and July-August issue of American Opinion, containing "annual scoreboard of the degree of Communist influence in all the countries of the world." Postscript comments on attack in Sunday Milwaukee Journal.

September, 1960. Comments on "massive smear campaign on a national scale" against Society. Suggestion of possible courses for members in campaign and election. Recommends Manion Questionnaire; "Harass Herter" campaign; letters to Boy Scout Headquarters protesting their inviting Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg to address Jamboree; letters to NBC protesting Sacco-Vanzetti TV program; support of National Committee for Economic Freedom in favor of "23rd Amendment" to take government out of competition with private enterprise and to abolish the income tax; attend annual convention of We, The People; ask Congressman to inquire about Social Security payments to noncitizens living abroad; boycott products of Communist countries, or even of "various other countries, not yet behind the Iron Curtain"; take over local PTA; oppose Khrushchev attendance at United Nations session in New York.

October, 1960. Lists Americanist periodicals to be read and supported; recommends support of conservative candidates for political office; urges that members protest the flying of the Panama flag over the Canal, and demand the resignation of Secretary Herter; recommends support of Khrushchev's "phony" demands "to take Soviet Russia out of the United Nations, to take the United Nations out of the United States, and to fire Dag Hammerskjold."

November, 1960. Rate of increase in membership stated to be "about two thousand new members a month." Proposes letters of congratulation to next President; subscriptions to American Opinion; rejection of UNICEF greeting cards; condemnation of movie, "Inherit the Wind." Announces slogan: "This is a republic, not a democracy — Let's keep it that way!" as available on gummed labels, and about to be used in Pitney-Bowes mailing machine. Recommends Economic Council Letter.

December, 1960. Proposes letters to Congressmen on: Connally Amendment; House Committee on Un-American Activities; State Department responsibility for Castro success in Cuba; Panama flag over Canal Zone; welfare state developments; vigilance over Presidential appointments; encouragement of Americanist Congressmen. Urges use of slogan stickers; Senator Taft stamp; opposition to UNICEF greeting cards; takeover of local PTA's; holding back from attack on movie, "Spartacus"; letters opposing direct telephone line to Kremlin; letters of encouragement to Syngman Rhee. Announces that names and addresses of Society members are not to be given out to anyone.

January, 1961. Entire issue devoted to Movement to Impeach Earl Warren.

February, 1961. Includes 20-page supplement on Movement to Impeach Earl Warren. Urges support of movie, "The Alamo"; boycott of Communist goods; reading and recommendation of approved books and of American Opinion.

March, 1961. Chiefly devoted to Movement..., and includes reproductions of favorable comment in letters and newspapers. Comments on some unfavorable opinions. Recommends rally of Independent American Forum in Chicago.

April, 1961. Copy of 4-page letter to unidentified Congressman, thanking him for circulating fair memorandum on subject of Society, and giving additional information about Society. Analysis of unfavorable articles on Society in People's World (Communist organ), Time, Nashville Tennessean, Los Angeles Times. Extended defense of Society and of Robert Welch personally against charges of anti-Semitism. Announcement of coming publication of three-part article in UPI papers. Urges continued activity in various established member projects.

May, 1961. Account of Founder's speaking tour in April. Explains why Society may not urge members and others to vote for Senator Tower in Texas election. Explains refusal to take active part in Kent Courtney's "Third Party." Attributes hostile developments in Santa Barbara to activities of News-Press, Fund for the Republic, University of California at Santa Barbara, and the fact that, "The Columbia Broadcasting Company is out to destroy the John Birch Society." Denies allegation in Madison (Wis.) Capital Times, that Society members were making

"heckling telephone calls." Reprints account of General Edwin A. Walker case, from National Review, and discloses that General Walker had been a subscriber to American Opinion, and that some back issues, including the reprinted Life of John Birch, had been purchased in some quantity for a Special Projects office of his command. Lists 16 Americanist groups for the approval and support of members. Urges members to keep off radio and television (with some exceptions), because "the enemy owns the air!"

June, 1961. Emphasizes priority of Movement to Impeach Earl Warren. Reports on aspects of campaign to boycott goods from Iron Curtain countries. Comments on General Walker and Overseas Weekly. Asks members to suggest new slogans. Discusses criticism of Society by Senators Dodd and Milton R. Young. Answers some charges by Senator Stephen M. Young, and explains financial and tax status of Society. Recommends Edgar Bundy's and Myers Lowman's publications on communism in the churches.

July, 1961. Emphasizes Movement to Impeach Earl Warren, and urges members to get friends to sign petitions to that end, and to read Rosalie Gordon's Nine Men Against America. Discusses negotiations with Pitney-Bowes about use of slogan, "This is a republic..." with added identification "Advertisement of mailer," or of substitute slogan with similar patriotic effect. Denies that Society is secret, except for membership list. Reply to Freedom House statement critical of Society. Urges members to write appreciative letter to Westbrook Pegler. Asks members' help in building up "the

most complete and accurate files in America on the leading Comsymps, Socialists, and Liberals." Discusses economic effect of proposed boycott of Iron Curtain goods. Reprints letter from parents of John Birch, endorsing Society. Lists numerous approved books, pamphlets, and periodicals.

August, 1961. Announces prize contest for college undergraduates, on topic of impeachment of Earl Warren. Urges letters opposing foreign aid, and supporting Newburgh revolt against "welfarism." Urges study of Agricultural Act of 1961 (H.R. 6400) as item in socialist scheme. Replies to attack on Society in The Worker.

September, 1961. Reproduces Intelligence Digest article on the nature of the Communist attack. Agenda proposed to members include Movement to Impeach Earl Warren, slogan stickers, discussion of slogan, letters to firms refusing Russian-made goods, support of Senator Thurmond's "demand for an investigation of the military gag rules." Account of booklet issued by Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, The New Drive Against the Anti-Communist Program.

October, 1961. Urges purchase and recommendation of set of reprints, "One Dozen Candles." Stay with Movement to Impeach Earl Warren, and keep on using "republic" slogan. Detailed instructions on campaign of opposition to Fulbright Memorandum, and support of special investigating Subcommittee. Recommends use of American Opinion Speakers Bureau.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

History, Organization, Principles, and Activities

Selected Excerpts From Press Accounts:
Chronology of The John Birch Society
From January 1962 to March 1968

January 1962. The John Birch Society Bulletin: SUPPORT OF AMERICAN
COMMITTEE FOR AID TO KATANGA FREEDOM FIGHTERS:

"To All Chapter Leaders, and Home Chapter Members:

"As you have probably seen in the press, our COUNCIL, at its regular meeting in New York last Saturday, December 9, issued a strongly worded protest against the present efforts of the United Nations, depending almost entirely on money and equipment supplied by the United States, to destroy by armed force the independence of Katanga.

"Since then the American Committee For Aid To Katanga Freedom Fighters has been formed, largely through the efforts of William F. Buckley, Jr., and his associates; and their first full page advertisement, of similar and even stronger protest, appeared in the New York Times on Thursday, December 14. We are enclosing a reprint of that advertisement, which we have reproduced by permission of the Committee.

"And we urge our members to support this protest and appeal as promptly and energetically as they can."

POLICY STATEMENT ON KATANGA: (from the reprint)

"We call on our fellow-citizens to demand of President Kennedy, their Senators and Representatives, UN Ambassador Adlai Stevenson and UN Secretary General U Thant:

"1. To stop immediately all United States support of the UN operation in Katanga.

"2. To halt all UN military operations in Katanga, and withdraw all UN military forces from Katanga.

"3. To recognize Moise Tshombe and his government as legitimate spokesmen for Katanga in all further negotiations concerning the former Belgian Congo.

"4. To make restitution for the human and material destruction brought to Katanga by the UN military operations."

April 1962. The John Birch Society Bulletin: UNITED NATIONS AND DISARMAMENT:

"Instead of gradually abolishing our own armed forces, and putting our 'protection' and 'safety' in the hands of the United Nations 'peace force'--for which the actual legislation was passed by our Congress last September; instead of thus visibly surrendering our national independence to the United Nations as fast as this 'one-world' administration dares use its powers and go through with its plans; and instead of paying more taxes or increasing our inflationary national debt to buy utterly worthless bonds to finance our own subjugation; instead of any such betrayal of our ancestors who gave us this great

country, and of our children, who deserve to inherit it, what we really and emphatically want is to get the United States out of the United Nations and the United Nations out of the United States."

COMMUNIST MAIL:

"Congressman John H. Roussetot (Republican, of California) has introduced a bill (H. Res. 574) calling for a full scale Congressional inquiry into the influx of Communist propaganda into this country by mail, and especially its distribution at the expense of the American taxpayer. The inquiry would be made by the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, of which Roussetot is a member."

May 1962. The John Birch Society Bulletin: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES:

"Consider that organized religious bodies originally constituted the greatest obstacle with which the Communists were faced in their plans to impose an atheistic and amoral tyranny on the whole world. And consider that the Communists' method of subjugation or destroying any important enemy is by infiltration within that enemy's ranks. Under these proved circumstances it would be naive to the point of absurdity not to expect Communist infiltration into the Protestant clergy of America. Consider further that the Communists always proceed against

December 9, 1962. The Washington Star: BIRCH SOCIETY POLICY:

much time, the Supreme Court has had the incredible arrogance to tell "The John Birch Society critics' intransigent and inconsistent

dangerous' foreign policies of the United States. It called for

any enemy--a nation, a government, an organization, or even merely an informal group, by infiltrating their agents or their influence as near the top as possible, and then using that influence at the top to spread their power and control downward throughout the pyramidal structure under attack. In the light of this unbroken experience it would also be folly not to expect to find Communist influences at or near the top of such organizations as the National Council of Churches. In fact, when the whole method and extent of the Communist advance over the past forty years is looked at objectively, it is amazing that only about three percent of the Protestant clergy in America can be shown to be either agents, sympathizers, or dupes of the Communists; and that there are still plenty of determined anti-Communists in the higher ranks of the Protestant hierarchy."

June 1962. The John Birch Society Bulletin: THE SCHOOL PRAYER DECISION:

"The Constitution of the United States gives the Federal Government absolutely no rights or duties with regard to public education. And Article X of the Amendments known collectively as the Bill of Rights states unequivocally: 'The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.' This is plain language.

"Article I of the Bill of Rights begins: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;....' This is also plain language, including the clause we have underlined. Yet, in the recent decision now under so much fire, the Supreme Court has had the incredible arrogance to tell

the sovereign State of New York that it cannot provide a simple prayer for recitation by the pupils in its public schools!

"The truth is that all of the Federal Government's edging and pushing itself into subsidization and control of public education has been in violation of the Constitution. And the fact that it has been increasingly allowed by an apathetic people to get away with this insidious seizure of authority does not make the movement right, or any less dangerous. The further fact is that, entirely regardless of whether or not the people of New York State or their state government should provide on a state-wide basis for prayer in their public schools, the Constitution of the United States specifically forbids the Federal Government from interfering in such matters in any way."

September 1962. The John Birch Society Bulletin: THE UNITED NATIONS:

"...in this year of 1962, October 24 has again been designated as United Nations Day. And in protest against this infamy we suggest the following steps.

"Write to the Governor of your state, urging him not to proclaim United Nations Day, or to honor or observe it in any way. Last year Governor Nutter of Montana, Governor Barnett of Mississippi, and we believe a few other Governors, followed this procedure. This year, as a result of the United Nations actions in Katanga alone, the number of such clear-sighted and courageous Governors should show a decided increase. Do what you can to put your own Governor and your own state firmly on this patriotic honor role."

December 9, 1962. The Washington Star: BIRCH SOCIETY HITS U. S. POLICY:

"The John Birch Society criticized today 'inconsistent and dangerous' foreign policies of the United States. It called for

impeachment of 'those American officials...found responsible,' but named none.

"The society's national Council, meeting on the fourth anniversary of the society, unanimously adopted a resolution that Congress make 'a complete investigation of the foreign policy of the United States vis-a-vis communism.'"

December 26, 1963. The Washington Post: WELCH LAYS ASSASSINATION TO U. S. REDS, TIES JFK POLICIES TO COMMUNIST AIMS:

"Robert Welch, Jr., founder of the John Birch Society, says he believes President Kennedy's assassination was plotted by one or more high officials of the Communist Party, U. S. A., without knowledge of the Kremlin.

"Welch, writing in the December issue of the Society's monthly publication, the Bulletin, said he was sure the assassination caught Soviet officials 'as much by surprise as it did us.'

"He also linked 'the policies of the Kennedy Administration with the plans of the Communists' and said such policies 'had been cunningly designed by somebody behind the scenes' to help the Communists.

"The New York Times, in a dispatch from Boston, gave an account of the Bulletin article today. Folded inside each copy of the Bulletin was a block of narrow stickers bearing the legend, 'Communism Killed Kennedy,' and a suggestion that these be applied to letters 'and everywhere else that is proper.'

"According to the Times' account:

"Welch said the Birch Society is spending about \$2 million a year to save the country from communism.

"But, he said, the 'glorification' of Mr. Kennedy since his assassination has temporarily made 'completely unthinkable' any criticism identifying his Administration with communism.

"The copyrighted article reiterated the Society's assertion that Mr. Kennedy had been assassinated by a Communist, and said the Communists have been trying to shift the blame to extreme right wing organizations. The Birch Society is considered one of these.

"Lee H. Oswald, the slain accused assassin, has been disowned by the Communist Party.

"Welch did not make any allegation of a personal connection between Mr. Kennedy and the Communist Party. But, in discussing the mood of the country after the President's assassination, Welch wrote:

"'In the course of the awakening of Americans, which was brought about by the total efforts of many groups, including ourselves, there was a rapidly rising identification of the policies of the Kennedy Administration with the plans of the Communists.

"'There was even an increasing awareness of the fact that steps and measures of the Administration, which were specifically presented to the American people as means of fighting communism, were in fact... cunningly designed by somebody behind the scenes for that purpose.'"

April 1964. The John Birch Society Bulletin. CIVIL RIGHTS:

"In a pamphlet prepared...by Lloyd Wright and John C. Satterfield (both past presidents of the American Bar Association), ["the Civil Rights Act of 1963"] is called a Blueprint for Total Federal Regimentation. The authors state: 'The Civil Rights Act of 1963 is skillfully drawn with the patent, deliberate intent to destroy all effective constitutional limitations upon the extension of Federal governmental power over individuals and the States.' And at another point they say: 'Never in the history of nations governed by elected officials has the head of any state demanded the naked untrammelled power embodied in this Act, except when such state was upon the verge of becoming a dictatorship. If it is enacted, the states will be little more than local governmental agencies, existing as appendages of the central government and largely subject to its control. The legislation assumes a totally powerful National Government with unending authority to intervene in all private affairs among men, and to control and adjust property relationships in accordance with the judgment of Government personnel.'"

"'The Civil Rights Act of 1963,' if enacted, will be the first major legal step in establishing a brutal totalitarian police state over the American people.'"

May 1965. The John Birch Society Bulletin: CIVIL RIGHTS:

"Fully expose the 'civil rights' fraud and you will break the back of the Communist conspiracy.

"We expect to be repeating and hammering home the above statement for many months to come. The Negro Revolutionary Movement, now headed

by Martin Luther King and all of the Communists with whom he has surrounded himself, is at this stage the most important single part of the Communist program and strategy for taking over our country. And yet this NRM offers the best opportunity we have ever had for awakening the American people to the methods and the menace of the Communist conspiracy."

August 8, 1965. The Washington Post: BIRCHERS ESTIMATE RED CONTROL IN U. S. FROM 60 TO 80 PERCENT:

"The John Birch Society estimates that the present degree of Communist influence or control over the economic and political affairs of the United States is from 60 to 80 percent.

"In a survey of world Communist progress in the current issue of the organization's American Opinion, the Society claims that communism is the dominant influence in 88 out of 123 countries and territories outside the Communist bloc.

"In recent months the Society has been carrying on a campaign to convince the public that it is a responsible anti-Communist organization. But the current issue of American Opinion prompted conservative columnist William F. Buckley, Jr. to write last week:

"I regret to say that in my judgement it is impossible to defend the leadership of the John Birch Society if one reads closely even its contemporary utterances."

[Cf. entry, July-August 1966, American Opinion.]

September 14, 1965. The New York Times: BIRCH SOCIETY WILL OPEN NEW WASHINGTON OFFICE:

"The John Birch Society announced today that it would formally open its new Washington branch office on Friday...."

September 26, 1965. The Washington Star: BIRCHISTS HELD DOUBLED SINCE KENNEDY DEATH:

"Robert Welch said today the John Birch Society when he heads had doubled its membership since President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

"There are now between 60,000 and 100,000 members, Welch told reporters as he arrived for a dinner in his honor."

October 19, 1965. National Review: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY AND THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT, by the Editors of National Review. Contents:
1. The Background; 2. Three Columns; 3. The Birch Malady;
4. Get US Out!; 5. Questions and Answers; 6. Commentary.

November 21, 1965. The Washington Post: BIRCHERS ATTACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT:

"The John Birch Society has launched a massive publicity, publishing and public relations campaign.

"Its principal target--by a new order of national leader Robert Welch--is the 'Communist-inspired civil rights fraud.'

"To get its message across, the Birch Society has nearly doubled its budget in the last year.

"This is possible because the Society's ranks have been swollen and its coffers fattened by conservatives embittered by Barry Goldwater's defeat last fall.

"'After November our membership mushroomed,' says Welch, who claims about 80,000 followers organized in 5,000 chapters.

"Welch says the Society he founded seven years ago will spend between \$5 million and \$6 million in 1965--almost twice as much as the Republican National Committee.

"This money supports a staff of 250 paid employees, East Coast and West Coast headquarters, five regional public relations offices, a network of 360 bookstores, and an outpouring of printed material rarely matched by a splinter political movement."

February 1966. Anti-Defamation League Report: "John Birch Society--1966. Strength, Growth, and Thrust," in Facts. Vol. 17, No. 1.

February 1966. The John Birch Society Bulletin. Statement of Principles, written by the founders of the Jewish Society of Americanists.

March 1966. John Birch Society Bulletin: States intention to publish ("in due course") books and pamphlets under the name of Organization for Repeal of the Federal Income Tax.

April 1966. The John Birch Society Bulletin: STATEMENT ON VIETNAM:

"All it would take to win the war in Vietnam, conclusively and in short order, is the will to win. But that would spoil the game. For, we repeat the accusation: The major purpose of our being at war in Vietnam is simply to be at war. The only way we can possibly afford to get out of Vietnam now is through and after a clear-cut victory. And the only way there is any chance of having this Administration give up so useful an involvement, and strive to end

it through victory, is through a mighty and reverberating uprising of American public opinion. Let's help to spark that uprising by incessant and widespread repetition of our incisive question: When are we going to win this war in Vietnam--and why not?"

May 1966. The John Birch Society Bulletin: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE UNITED NATIONS:

"As pointed out before, the Johnson war in Vietnam is being run on the basis of our SEATO treaties, and is ultimately under the control of the United Nations. Which means that, exactly as was the case for the Korean affair, we are supplying the men and the money to fight a war against the Communists, which war is actually being run by the communists. And if that sounds crazy, the reason is very simple: It is crazy--or a great deal worse.

"The sad truth is that, no matter how many American troops we send to Southeast Asia, no matter how many billions of dollars McNamara's band spends and wastes in going through their tragic pretenses, and no matter how great is the increase of both taxes and bureaucracy imposed on the American people with this Vietnam war as the excuse, there is neither the slightest chance of our winning this war, or of it even being conducted with any will to win, under these circumstances. We suggest two themes, therefore, to be explained and emphasized in letters to newspapers or broadcasters, in speeches or conversations, and everywhere you have any practicable chance of driving home these points:

and its coffers fattened by conservatives slobbered by

Harry Goldwater's defeat last fall.

(1) Because of the war in Vietnam--in order that we may have any chance to win it and then bring our boys home--
Get US out! of the United Nations;

(2) To stop the United States from being responsible any longer for building up our enemies and tearing down our friends all over the world--as illustrated by Rhodesia and Katanga--Get US out! of the United Nations."

[A petition campaign is currently being waged by the John Birch Society to have the United States government "stop, promptly and completely, giving aid in any form, directly or indirectly, to our Communist enemies."]

July-August 1966. American Opinion: COMMUNISM:

"The scores show for each nation or region the degree of control over its whole political and economic life exercised, secretly or openly, by the International Conspiracy through all of its instrumentalities, including, of course, Communist-fronts and organizations and groups that are secretly manipulated by disguised members or employees of the conspiracy. THE SCORES, IN OTHER WORDS, MEASURE NOT THE NUMBER OF OPEN AND SECRET COMMUNISTS IN A GIVEN TERRITORY, BUT THEIR POWER--the extent to which they can, by force, intimidation, bribery, or deceit, effect whatever the conspiracy wants done and prevent whatever it does not want done."

[Cf. entry, August 8, 1965. The Washington Post: "Birchers Estimate Red Control in U. S. from 60 to 80 Percent."]

August 21, 1966. The Washington Post: VIET WAR SPLITS BIRCH LEADERSHIP:

"The war in Vietnam, which has divided the Nation's political liberals and moderates into quarreling factions, has just as certainly split the top leadership of the John Birch Society. (S)

"The war in Vietnam is the issue that broke the back of the camel,' said Slobodan M. Draskovich, who resigned this week from the Society's Council, the group which advises Birch Society founder Robert Welch. Draskovich is a former Yugoslav economist now living in the United States.

"In the past, Welch criticized any American involvement in Vietnam; and now he is offering his followers the alternative: Either get out or go all out to win."

August 28, 1966. The New York Times: BIRCH SOCIETY IS SHAKEN BY

'ACRIMONIOUS DISPUTES":

"The John Birch Society is being shaken by 'acromonious disputes' that have kept the founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., flying around the nation seeking to restore harmony.

"The situation was serious enough for Mr. Welch to devote the first two pages of the August bulletin to members to a discussion of his oft-repeated question, 'Which would you rather do, win your argument with some fellow Bircher or win our war against the Communists?'

"Citing Plutarch and the Bible to point out the dangers of discord, Mr. Welch asserted:

[Cf. entry, August 8, 1965. The Washington Post]

[Estimate Red Control in U. S. from 60 to 80 percent.]

"In many cases the trouble has grown out of the efforts of some individual or group to utilize the membership or the structure of the John Birch Society with personal purposes, or private ways that have nothing to do with the basic aims and program of the society itself."

[Claims 100,000 Members]

"The ultraconservative society, which claims a national membership of about 100,000 in 5,000 chapters, had an operating budget in 1965 of approximately \$5-million."

September 11, 1966. The Washington Post: BIRCH SOCIETY BADLY SPLIT, HURT BY WAR STEP-UP, SURVEY SHOWS:

"The John Birch Society's 'most effective recruiting issue,' its complaint against a 'no-win' foreign policy, has been undercut by the Administration's stepped-up war effort in Vietnam.

"That is one of the conclusions drawn by Fred Grupp, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin at Racine, from a unique national survey made of John Birch members in mid-1965.

"In order to win the Society's cooperation for his poll, Grupp had to agree to plan to protect the anonymity of the members. His 8-page questionnaires were returned by the recipients to a Birch Council member in Racine. The Birch official, Grupp reported, then removed the completed questionnaires from the return envelopes so that not even a postmark was available as a clue to the respondent's identity."

August "Some of the data contradict public ideas about the Society and its members, Grupp said yesterday in a paper prepared for the convention of the American Political Science Association in New York City.

"The John Birch Society, frequently pictured as a monolithic body with but a single mind, is clearly less cohesive than many observers believe,' he said,"

September 12, 1966. The New York Times: WELCH SOLIDIFIES GRIP ON BIRCH SOCIETY AT HIGH-LEVEL PARLEY:

"A three-hour executive session of the national council of the John Birch Society over the weekend has apparently solidified the monolithic rule of its founder, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr.

"The session, according to John D. Rousselot, the society's national director of public relations, unanimously accepted the resignations of two members of the executive committee, Dr. Revalo P. Oliver and Slobodan M. Draskovich.

"The resignations brought to three the number of defections in the higher echelons of the ultraconservative society in the last several months. Earlier, T. Coleman Andrews, former Commissioner of Internal Revenue, quit the council."

November 1966. Publication in American Opinion of "The Truth in Time: "

". . . an outline of the gradual integration of evil forces into what has now become the Communist conspiracy, from its amorphous beginnings in the Eighteenth Century up to its present world-wide reach with tentacles of steel."

January 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin: CIVIL RIGHTS:

"...This is one of the major battlefronts on which so far we are either winning, or at least visibly and materially slowing down the enemy's advance. So let's not falter for a day in any part of our continuing efforts."

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE:

"Of the eighteen or twenty major battlefronts on which the Communists are steadily pushing forward--as mentioned under 'civil rights' above--this is the second and only other one so far where we have really spiked their advance. But this shows that it can be done. And the overwhelming vote against Mayor Lindsay's Police Review Board, in the November elections in New York City, shows how surely and conclusively it can be done by simply creating enough understanding--and thus bringing others to help to create more understanding--of the issues at stake.

"But here again as everywhere, in dealing with scenes which have Communists behind them, the battle is still raging. We not only cannot let up at all, but should press on to a more conclusive victory--such as seeing that every civilian police review board in the United States is abolished. We need to have the public thoroughly understand that the drive to discredit, neutralize, and destroy local police forces everywhere, while replacing them with the gendarmerie of a central government, is a worldwide Communist plot. And since our most effective work on this whole front has been done by local or regional Support Your

Local Police committees, we are glad to note that excellent new SYLP committees are still being formed."

February 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin: RIOTS:

"...Let us repeat and remind you that five years ago not one American in a thousand was aware of the already far advanced Communist plot to discredit, neutralize, and undermine our local police forces so that they could be replaced by the brutal gestapo of a central government--and so that Communist-led riots could run unchecked, or actually be aided, by this federal gendarmerie. Today, thanks to the drive initiated by The John Birch Society, this part of the Communist program is being completely spiked. And all it took was the creation of sufficient understanding."

March 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin: RECRUITING:

"Unless we are deceiving ourselves, which we try never to do, the addition of new members and new chapters is beginning to pick up again--as certainly is the the morale and enthusiasm of our membership at large. Even our total mail has increased by about fifty percent during the last thirty days."

April 8, 1967. The Saturday Evening Post: ROUSSELOT RESIGNS OFFICIAL POSITION:

"For four years former Congressman John Roussetot has been laboring away at one of the rockiest jobs in the country--trying to win broader public acceptance for Robert (Eisenhower-is-a-Communist) Welch's John Birch Society. Now, however, Roussetot is winding up his affairs

and getting ready to quit as the organization's national public relations director. Long the No. 2 Bircher and believed by many to be Welch's heir-apparent, Rousselot will step down this month from his 'official' position and return to the status of an ordinary member in the ranks. At the trim colonial-style building in San Marino, Calif., that functions as 'Birch West,' Rousselot recently disclosed his impending departure with the air of a man putting down a 100-pound sack of potatoes. 'I think I could write an interesting article,' he said wryly, 'entitled "The Challenges of My Last Job."'

"A friendly, 39-year-old Christian Scientist, Rousselot is a 'moderate' Bircher who does not share his employer's much-quoted view of Eisenhower. He is on easy terms with many newspaper, radio and television people, and he has a quick sense of humor. Joe Pyne, an acidulous TV-radio talk-show master, once roared at him, 'Just what do you Birchers do, anyway, besides beat yourselves on the breast and praise your own patriotism?' 'For one thing,' Rousselot replied, 'we provide guests for shows like yours.'"

May 1, 1967. Christian Century: WELCH SAYS COMMUNISTS JOIN BIRCH SOCIETY:

"...Speaking to 1,800 college students attending a meeting sponsored by the Boston College chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom, Welch declared that some communists have infiltrated his organization but have failed to 'divide it into factions or divert its purpose by internal disputes.'"

May 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin: COMMUNISM:

"The whole gigantic and ruthless scheme for taking over the United States, and with it the remainder of the world, is now far advanced. But, especially for the benefit of our newer members and readers, let's again take a current look at the other side of the coin. The struggle is by no means over. For the John Birch Society program of education and exposure is something that the Communists have never faced before, on any sizable scale, in any country. And their deep concern about this opposition is full of excited cries and lies by the dupes, agents, and sympathizers, who carry the ball for the Communists, in their frantic efforts to discredit the John Birch Society and all of our activities."

July 1967. John Birch Society Bulletin. Accuses the "nefarious antics and vicious tactics" of the Anti-Defamation League of giving help to "Communist enemies of the John Birch Society. ADL, states the Bulletin, has charged the John Birch Society with "exploiting American anguish over Vietnam" in a pamphlet called The Truth About Vietnam.

August 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin: STATEMENT ON THE RIOTS:

"Why Detroit, instead of Chicago? We can only guess, but let's do so. For one thing, Walter Reuther and his unadmitted protege, George Romney, have been creating the proper climate for such revolutionary outbursts in Michigan for years. (Not even overlooking the potential danger from the John Birch Society to their respective

plans. Romney has worked almost as hard to destroy us in Michigan as Reuther has on the national scene.)

"In the second place, as our nationwide Support Your Local Police campaign gathered so much public support, and began to make it impossible for the discrediting and neutralization of local police forces to be carried out along the lines originally intended, Detroit was one of the very first cities where the insidious new drive was begun by the federal government, to control local police forces through subsidies and 'grants' and 'training.' As was reported in our Bulletin for March, 1967, this aggressive interference with both the independence and the efficiency of the Detroit police force had got under way as far back as the preceding July. So that probably nowhere else in the country, except in New York City, were the police so handicapped, psychologically as well as administratively, for handling a major riot, as in Detroit.

"Third, there are now two increasingly important purposes behind all of these riots, besides those which appear on the surface. One is, to have them serve as a reason and an excuse for sending in federal troops. (You may have noted how M. L. King gloated over this action being taken for Detroit.) The other is to support the claim of the agitators that their activities have now graduated into the classification of guerrilla warfare, rather than mere rioting. And nowhere else in the country could the revolutionaries have found more official support for both of these purposes than from the Governor of Michigan and the Mayor of Detroit."

September 1967. The Wall Street Journal:

Wall Street Journal alleges that the John Birch Society is losing members and revenue. The September 29 issue states many top aides have quit the group, laying their disenchantment to Robert Welch's rigidity and autocratic rule. The article, written by Richard Stone, asserts that the author has interviewed former Birch members who have quit the society. Robert Welch, according to Stone, staunchly denies any drop in funds or membership, conceding only that the nine-year-old society is no longer growing.

October 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin:

"Maybe we really are getting older after all, or just more cantankerous. For we must confess that the Wall Street Journal article, which came in while these last few pages were being written, actually made us mad for at least half a minute. And while it is definitely and intentionally a smear job, put together almost entirely from the twisted tales of former associates and employees who are disgruntled now that they are no longer with the Society, it is certainly no worse [in] its errors (or falsehoods), half truths, omission of important facts, biased innuendoes, misinterpretations, and misunderstanding than hundreds of articles which have appeared about us in dozens of major periodicals during the last five or six years."

November 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin:

States that the campaign to impeach Earl Warren has not been abandoned. "We have been letting the Warren impeachment drive simmer

on a back burner because we could not do everything at once. But we have no more intention of dropping it than of merging the John Birch Society with the Americans for Democratic Action...."

December 1967. The John Birch Society Bulletin: BIRCH SOCIETY GAINS:

"On November 30, 1962, Dr. S. M. Draskovich wrote a letter of eleven single-space typewritten pages, to be read at our COUNCIL meeting in December of that year. The whole burden of this letter was that The John Birch Society was falling to pieces due to my mismanagement. How little truth there was to this charge is best shown by the fact that during the next three years from that date the Society twice doubled its numerical strength, its revenues, its total staff, its activities, and its influence. While within this same period, an anti-Communist organization founded and headed by Dr. Draskovich himself was declining, we believe, from several thousand to only a few hundred adherents."

December 9, 1967. New York Times: BIRCH SOCIETY HEAD SAYS REDS GAIN IN CAPITAL:

"Robert Welch, founder and leader of the John Birch Society, said yesterday that Communist influence in Washington 'is stronger than ever before.'

"Mr. Welch, here for the ninth birthday dinner of the right-wing society, declined to identify any Communists in government.

"Nonetheless, he said, Communist conniving, combined with with foreign policy 'idiocies' and Administration 'stupidities,' was 'keeping our boys from winning the Vietnam war.'

"The Administration can win the war 'and win it fast' with the troops now available, he said. He also said the society opposed escalation ('that's the Communist game') and that he saw 'no need to use nuclear weapons.'

"But he argued that troops were hamstrung by repeated shortages of ammunition and by practices such as limiting raiding planes to only 10 to 25 percent of their bomb capacity.

"Mr. Welch, speaking at a news conference in the New York Hilton Hotel, said the major issues in the 1968 election would be Vietnam and 'the massive aid given to our enemies,' and urban riots."

December 24, 1967. The Washington Post: TOP IS FALLING OUT OF JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. [an article]

December 30, 1967. The Washington Post: REED A. BENSON (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS) CONTENTS THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT MORIBUND, BUT ON THE CONTRARY, FULL OF VIGOR:

"On Dec. 24 your newspaper carried a lengthy attack on the John Birch Society by one of the Society's long-time and most persistent critics.

"The following information is submitted for the benefit of your readers, in order to keep the record straight and help correct some of the false impressions and inaccurate statements contained in the article:

"(1) The John Birch Society consists of a nation-wide educational army of increasing membership which is directed by a fully-paid field staff.

"(2) The Society now operates what is probably the largest speakers' bureau in the free world--the American Opinion Speakers Bureau.

"(3) The Society operates the largest chain of bookstores in the country, consisting of approximately 400 American Opinion Libraries.

"(4) Our 15-minute weekly radio program, 'Are You Listening, Uncle Sam,' is now heard on well over one hundred stations across the Nation.

"(5) Our affiliated weekly news magazine, 'The Review of the News,' is currently sponsoring a nation-wide petition drive urging Congress to put a stop to the aid the present Administration is giving to our Communist enemies all over the world. To date, over 675,000 signatures have been collected on this petition.

"(6) Our affiliated monthly magazine, 'American Opinion,' has become what many believe to be the most authoritative and influential monthly journal of its kind in America.

"(7) We operate a publishing division which turns out about four million dollars worth of literature a year, and we distribute many of the books and reprints of about a hundred other publishers.

"(8) There has been a tremendous increase in the number of ad hoc committees formed by the Society (such as those working as part of our 'Support Your Local Police' project). The several thousand of these committees have approximately doubled the strength, reach, and influence of the Society within the past 18 months.

"(9) The financial contributions coming in to the Society through our 'Continuing Support Clubs' (in which thousands of our members and friends pledge themselves to regular monthly contributions to the Society) now exceed the total of regular monthly dues paid to the Society by its members.

"(10) As the Society's Founder, Robert Welch, stated at a press conference held in New York City on December 8, 1967: 'The John Birch Society will end the year of 1967 with greater strength, a more experienced staff, a more dedicated membership, a far wider reach and influence, a larger and stronger council, and a stronger financial position, than at any time in its history.'"

January 1968. The John Birch Society Bulletin:

Publishes theoretical Communist "plans" for America. Sees the destruction of American character, the destruction of the family, the "division, subdivision, and redivision" of American people over all possible sources of hostility, as playing into Communist hands. Postulates the use of the civil rights movement by Communists to "create to the fullest extent possible...distrust and bitterness between all whites and all blacks in America." Sees the Vietnam war as utilized by Communists to bring about a "full-scale Third World War," to bring the American people "formally, completely, and almost willingly, under one-world Communist rule presented as the United Nations."

February 1968. The John Birch Society Bulletin: LAMBASTES ADMINISTRATION

HANDLING OF PUEBLO INCIDENT:

"An American 'spy ship' is seized in waters near Korea by the North Korean Communists. The circumstances are so contrived that there can be all of the usual arguments about such trifles as whether or not the ship actually was within the twelve-mile limit 'enforced by North Korea,' and about other 'rights' and 'wrongs' of the action on both sides. Word goes out to a subservient press to give the whole episode 'the works,' and to influence and excite the populace about it in full Roman holiday style.

"The reaction of most good citizens to this incident, and of many patriotic Congressmen, would be vastly encouraging if it were not so ridiculously naive, and so obviously and exactly what the Communists have planned and desired. Many things, basically far more shocking than this one, have been happening regularly, even to our armed forces in Asia during recent years, and going almost entirely unnoticed in the Liberal press. The current hullabaloo merely proves how easily the American people can be manipulated, and turned on and off at will. The impresarios of the performance unrolling before us simply use the mass communications media to tell us what to applaud and when to be horrified. And lo, we react on schedule, entirely according to signal."

March 3, 1968. The New York Times: WELCH REPORTS THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

IS THRIVING:

"The John Birch Society reported this weekend that it was thriving, although it acknowledged that its target, the 'Communist conspiracy' in the United States and abroad, was posing an unmitigated threat.

"Eighteen hundred members turned out for a dinner at the Century Plaza Hotel Friday night, held in conjunction with a quarterly meeting of the ultraconservative organization's 28-member governing council. It is composed primarily of well-to-do businessmen, many from the Middle West and South."

ADDENDUM

The September 1963 Bulletin of the John Birch Society is described as follows:

"This bulletin has been prepared even more for repeated reference than for a single reading.

"It is intended to help to answer, and to help our members to answer, in part and however inadequately, the often-encountered questions: Just what is The John Birch Society? And what does it do?

"The answer is by examples more than by exposition. This sample, except for its much greater size in order to make it more comprehensive, is a reasonably normal and average bulletin. And to those non-members who have sufficient interest to listen in here on our thinking and be observers of our actions, we say simply that our doors are always and all ways open to people of good character, religious ideals, and humane consciences who may wish to come in and help us."

The November 1965 Bulletin of the John Birch Society is described as follows:

"This bulletin has been prepared primarily for members of the Society, and as much for future reference as for a single reading....

"This particular manual does not differ in format or in content from the usual monthly message sent by headquarters to our members. It does differ in its thicker size, and its more comprehensive coverage of our activities, of our purposes, and of the foundation in beliefs and principles of all that we are trying to do."

March 3, 1968. The New York Times: WHICH REPORTS THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

The Incorporators of the John Birch Society are:

Robert Welch, Belmont, Massachusetts--President and Treasurer

Marion Probert Welch, Belmont, Massachusetts

Ellen M. Lovett, Cambridge, Massachusetts--Clerk or Secretary

Ellen Douglas Snow, Belmont, Massachusetts

Philip L. Jenkins, Brockton, Massachusetts

Juliette D. Guild, Hingham, Massachusetts

Mary M. White, West Concord, Massachusetts

Members of the National Council, as of March 1968, are:

Dr. N. E. Adamson, Jr., Belmont, Massachusetts

Mr. S. J. Agnew, Centralia, Washington

Mr. Thomas J. Anderson, Nashville, Tennessee

Mr. A. Clifford Barker, Fairfax, Virginia

Mr. Carlton Beal, Midland, Texas

Mr. Frank Cullen Brophy, Phoenix, Arizona

Mr. John T. Brown, Racine, Wisconsin

Mr. Robert Buffington, Glenwood, Iowa

Col. Laurence E. Bunker, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Mr. F. Gano Chance, Centralia, Missouri.

Mr. S. J. Conner, Marshfield, Wisconsin

Mr. Ralph E. Davis, Los Angeles, California

Rev. Francis E. Fenton, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Mr. William J. Grede, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mr. A. G. Heinsohn, Sevierville, Tennessee
Mr. Robert D. Love, Wichita, Kansas
Dean Clarence E. Manion, South Bend, Indiana
Dr. Laurence P. McDonald, Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. N. Floyd McGowin, Chapman, Alabama
Mr. William B. McMillan, St. Louis, Missouri
Mr. Robert Montgomery, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dr. Thomas Parker, Greenville, South Carolina
Mr. Floyd Paxton, Yakima, Washington
Mr. Louis Ruthenberg, Evansville, Indiana
Mr. Nelson Shepherd, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Mr. Robert Stoddard, Worcester, Massachusetts
Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone, III, USAF (Ret.), Los Angeles, California

Mr. William J. Grede, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
The Incorporators of the John Birch Society:
 Mr. A. G. Hainach, Beverlyville, Tennessee
 Robert Welch, Belmont, Massachusetts and Treasurer
 Mr. Robert D. Love, Wichita, Kansas
 Marion Probert Welch, Belmont, Massachusetts
 Dean Clarence E. Manion, South Bend, Indiana
 Ellen M. Lovett, Cambridge, Massachusetts--Clerk or Secretary
 Dr. Laurence P. McDonald, Atlanta, Georgia
 Ellen Douglas Snow, Belmont, Massachusetts
 Mr. E. Floyd McGowan, Chapman, Alabama
 Philip L. Jenkins, Brockton, Massachusetts
 Mr. William D. McMillan, St. Louis, Missouri
 Juliette D. Guild, Hingham, Massachusetts
 Mr. Robert Montgomery, Cambridge, Massachusetts
 Mary M. White, West Concord, Massachusetts
 Dr. Thomas Parker, Greenville, South Carolina

Mr. Floyd Paxson, Yakima, Washington
Members of the National Council:
 Mr. Louis Rutenberg, Evansville, Indiana
 Dr. H. E. Adamson, Jr., Noranda, E. N. York
 Mr. Nelson Shepherd, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 Mr. S. J. Agnew, Centralia, Washington
 Mr. Robert Stoddard, Worcester, Massachusetts
 Mr. Thomas J. Anderson, Nashville, Tennessee
 Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone, III, USAF (Ret.), Los Angeles, California
 Mr. A. Clifford Barker, Fairfax, Virginia

Mr. Carlton Beal, Midland, Texas
 Mr. Frank Cullen Brophy, Phoenix, Arizona
 Mr. John T. Brown, Racine, Wisconsin
 Mr. Robert Buffington, Glenwood, Iowa
 Col. Laurence E. Bunker, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts
 Mr. F. Gano Chance, Centralia, Missouri
 Mr. S. J. Conner, Marshfield, Wisconsin
 Mr. Ralph E. Davis, Los Angeles, California
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