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THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH

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Defending Freedom



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45th Anniversary Special Issue

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Regular readers of THE NEW AMERICAN are well aware that this is a magazine like no other. It is no ordinary publication of news and opinion. It provides facts and perspective, of course, but it does much more than that. It fearlessly blazes a trail to arm America's patriots with the truth they need to expose the enemies of freedom and to preserve Americanist principles. Those principles include limited government under the U.S. Constitution, the God-given rights that the Constitution safeguards, and the moral bedrock that makes freedom possible.

The motto below the masthead that appears on the cover of every issue of THE NEW AMERICAN, "That freedom shall not perish," expresses the noble goal toward which all Americans worthy of the name aspire.

Safeguarding Freedom for 45 Years

Forty-five years ago this December, American businessman and patriot Robert Welch founded The John Birch Society to ensure that freedom shall not perish. In my estimation, based on 35 years as a member and 26 years on the staff, the JBS is the only organization with the potential for saving our freedoms.

There are, of course, many good Americans who would scoff at this assessment, despite recognizing the danger. They would point out that the JBS, after 45 years of existence, has failed to reverse the collectivist, internationalist tide. After all, they would argue, America is still moving along a planned trajectory from limited government to total government, from morality to amorality, from abundance to scarcity, and from nationhood to being a mere province in a despotic new world order.

But those Americans do not consider how much worse conditions would be without the last 45 years of Birch activism. They do not understand what a relatively small number of patriots have already accomplished by being informed, involved, committed, focused — *and organized!* Without The John Birch Society, freedom would have likely already perished.

There are also many good Americans who do not detect any conspiratorial threat against American liberty, who perceive John

Birchers as tilting at windmills. "Communism is dead," they might claim, "so why is the anti-Communist John Birch Society still around?" They overlook that the Total State can advance under any number of flags — and collectivism is on the march, despite Communism's apparent demise. To learn more about America's present, dangerous trajectory, we encourage these and other Americans to read the opening article in this issue, by JBS Chief Executive Officer G. Vance Smith (see next page).

The Weapon of Truth

THE NEW AMERICAN is published by American Opinion Publishing, a John Birch Society affiliate. As such, it is fitting that the magazine devotes an entire issue to the JBS. The magazine is, in fact, a tool of the JBS. Specifically, members use the magazine to become better informed so that they may more effectively carry out the Society's agenda projects. They also use the magazine to inform others.

Many thousands of non-JBS members also benefit from the magazine, and we are grateful to have every one of them as a subscriber. But the bottom line is that a heavy dose of information about the collectivist conspiracy ravaging our nation, absent any antidote to counter that advancing cancer, will likely lead to frustration and defeatism. The information regularly published in these pages is most effective when it is put to use in the freedom fight.

Robert Welch repeatedly said of The John Birch Society: "We are an army fighting with facts, and to be better informed is to be better armed." We encourage all readers — JBS members and non-JBS members alike — to put to use the information appearing in these pages every two weeks. Moreover, we encourage readers who are not JBS members to consider joining.

Freedom is not only every person's birthright, it is also every person's responsibility. If America is saved, it will only be because enough good citizens got informed and involved. ■

— GARY BENOIT

To order additional copies of this special issue of TNA at quantity-discount prices, see the insert card between pages 46 and 47.

Life-and-Death Struggle

The John Birch Society is courageously holding the front lines in the fight to preserve freedom and our constitutional republic against a powerful, entrenched Conspiracy.

by G. Vance Smith

America is locked in a life-and-death titanic struggle. No, we are not referring to the war in Iraq, or even the larger War on Terror of which the Iraq operation is supposedly a part. The war to which we refer has been going on for a much longer time and is now reaching a climactic stage.

We are talking about a war being waged by organized evil on a global scale — a conspiracy of evil men leading the World Revolution that seeks to overthrow *everything* that you and I and every decent American hold dear. They intend to sweep away totally our present system of sovereign nation states, with their individual constitutions, legal codes, traditions, and customs, to be replaced by a new world order, a global, collectivist, Orwellian police state. Impossible? We wish that it were! It is taking place before our very eyes. Tragically, too few Americans have even a clue that this war is raging or realize how rapidly it is bearing down on them.

Not too long ago, Americans could accurately claim to be “number one” in just about every area: military power, economic output, manufacturing, research, science, technology, medicine, energy production, transportation, communications, agriculture, mining — you name it. In one lifetime, we’ve seen that

change dramatically. We have lost our primacy in many fields and depend on foreign sources — including our avowed enemies — for many products and crucial resources. In the past few years, we have lost



G. Vance Smith has been chief executive officer of The John Birch Society since 1991.

millions of high-tech jobs. We frequently are told that the United States is the “last remaining superpower.” But our military forces have been stretched to the breaking point in dozens of conflicts throughout the world. Meanwhile, the putrid sewage fraudulently marketed as “popular culture” is aggressively corroding our country’s moral fabric, which is the essential basis for lasting military and economic strength.

America, once the undisputed world leader in virtually every field, has been set up for a crush-

ing fall. Yes, we have dared to use the forbidden “C” word: Conspiracy. And, yes, we know that it is terribly unfashionable to do so. It is unforgivably “politically incorrect.” However, no one can accuse us ever of having been terribly concerned with being fashionable or “PC.” We are far too concerned with saving our nation and our freedom to be fashion-conscious.

When two or more people plot in secret to accomplish an evil purpose, they are engaged, by definition, in a conspiracy. For our many newer subscribers, and for those who may be reading *THE NEW AMERICAN* for the first time, let us assure one and all what we most definitely are *not* talking about when we use the “C” word. We are not talking about an *X-Files* conspiracy of space aliens for world control. We are not talking about conspiracy *theory* at all, but conspiracy *fact*.

The Conspiracy we are talking about is a coterie of *Insiders* including many of the world’s wealthiest and most powerful men. It includes top Communists (yes, they are still around) as well as some of the world’s top capitalists. This fact stumps a great many people because it seems so completely illogical that obvious mortal enemies — Communists and capitalists — would have any possible mutual goal to provide an incentive for collusion. After all, the Communists want to confiscate all the wealth and kill the capitalists, right? And knowing this, capitalists oppose the Communists, right? Theoretically, yes. But reality turns out to be somewhat different.

Most capitalists are indeed anti-Communist. They want to preserve the free-enterprise system, allowing them to operate their businesses with as little government involvement as necessary. Monopoly capitalists, however, are more than willing to use the power of government to wipe out competition and concentrate wealth and

America, once the undisputed world leader in virtually every field, has been set up for a crushing fall. Yes, we have dared to use the forbidden “C” word: Conspiracy. And, yes, we know that it is terribly unfashionable to do so. It is unforgivably “politically incorrect.”

power in their own hands.

Remember the recently departed billionaire Armand Hammer? That fabulously wealthy oil magnate turned out to be a Communist agent for Soviet dictators from Lenin to Gorbachev. He is not the only one. Most of the capitalist Insiders of this Conspiracy for global control are not actual Communists in the Armand Hammer mold. Nevertheless, they do collaborate with the most ruthless of Communist dictators for the mutual objective of creating a world government with totally unfettered power.



U.S. Marine Corps

Perpetual war: Top military authorities warn that U.S. military forces are already strained to the limit, with major War on Terror operations in Afghanistan (**left**) and Iraq (**below**). Insider voices in the Bush administration and the media are calling for expanding the war to many more countries.

The Convergence Plot

The *fact* of this Conspiracy for global control became apparent to investigators inside and outside of government many decades ago. It was precisely 50 years ago, in 1953, that Congress created a Special Committee to Investigate Tax-exempt Foundations. The need for the investigation was strikingly obvious: Some of the largest foundations — Ford, Rockefeller, and Carnegie, for instance — had been providing enormous funding to Communist, socialist, and subversive organizations and individuals.

The Special Committee was headed by Representative Carroll Reece, whose chief investigator was a brilliant, courageous, and tenacious man named Norman Dodd. During his investigation of the Ford Foundation, Mr. Dodd was understandably stunned by the candid admission of subversion by the foundation's president, H. Rowan Gaither. Mr. Gaither calmly told Dodd that the Ford Foundation was operating under directives that it use its massive grant-making power "to so alter life in the United States as to make possible a comfortable merger with the Soviet Union."

The Committee found plenty of evidence that Mr. Gaither and his counterparts at Rockefeller, Carnegie, and other major foundations were doing precisely that. At the Carnegie Endowment, for example, foundation president Alger Hiss was shoveling money to Marxists and one-worlders of every stripe, especially to those promoting the United Nations. This was the same Soviet agent Alger Hiss who had

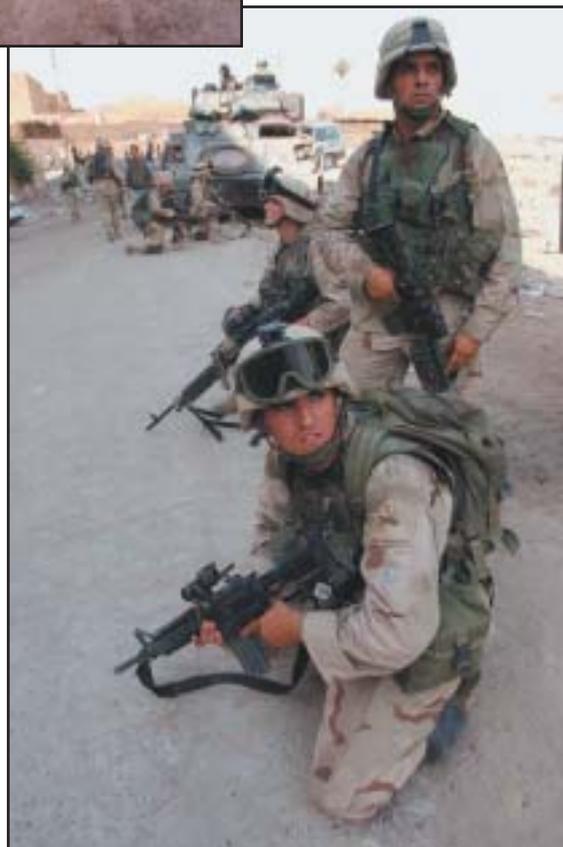
been President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's top State Department adviser and the chief U.S. architect of the UN. But these Insiders had powerful enough confederates to stifle the Reece Committee investigation and to scuttle any further congressional probes of their grand scheme of "comfortable merger."

This Conspiracy has grown in power and influence since that time, penetrating ever more pervasively throughout our federal government, our political parties, the major news media, and our major business, financial, and educational institutions.

Following the Trail

When Robert Welch founded The John Birch Society in 1958, he made it very clear that this new organization would *not* be just another debating society. It would not concern itself principally with exposing and opposing the philosophical fallacies and phony arguments of socialism, Communism, and one-worldism; rather, it would expose the Conspiracy working insidiously to so weaken and level down our economy and our society that it could be merged with other countries into a socialist new world order.

Mr. Welch was literally a genius who had become an outstanding scholar and a successful businessman. He was a brilliant historian and careful observer and analyst of contemporary world events who read and traveled widely. He recognized that



AP/Wide World

much of the crisis and turmoil propelling the world toward global tyranny was not the result of blind chance or inevitable historic forces, but the result of conscious planning by evil men. He also knew that those who recognize this fact have a great advantage over those who do not. Just as the investigator who recognizes that there is a drug cartel behind the heroin epidemic that has just hit a city's streets has an advantage over the one who doesn't see it. The smart investigator goes after the kingpins running the criminal action behind the scenes; the other contents himself with

We are talking about a war being waged by organized evil on a global scale — a conspiracy of evil men leading the World Revolution that seeks to overthrow *everything* that Americans hold dear. They intend to replace it with a new world order, a global, collectivist, Orwellian police state.

pursuing the low-level agents making the individual drug deals on the street.

Criminals leave trails. They leave evidence. Criminal conspiracies have defectors from their ranks who reveal secrets. Robert Welch studied the individual Insiders and the Conspiracy in excruciating detail. Because he understood them and their plans and methods so well, he could so accurately predict their schemes and programs years in advance. As he repeatedly pointed out, this involved no clairvoyance or extra-sensory perception; it was simply a matter of studying the facts on the ground and then “projecting the lines.”

Like Mr. Welch, the Society’s researchers, analysts, and writers continue to track the Conspiracy’s plans and operations. By following the publications, speeches, and meetings of such Insider fronts as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, the World Economic Forum, the United Nations, the Federal Reserve, the International Monetary Fund, the Socialist International, and many others, we too can project the lines.

Projecting the Lines

We have selected below only a few of the alarming pictures that emerge from these lines. We do not present them as a litany of woe. They show where America is headed *if* many more Americans do not awaken and join the fight against this satanically evil Conspiracy.

- *Perpetuating war for perpetual “peace”*: The Bush administration’s War on Terrorism, which began with Afghanistan and has since expanded to Iraq, is on track to expand further in the Middle East, with calls for invading and occupying Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and other countries. Advocates of U.S. interventionism are also calling for a U.S.-led “peace force” to oc-

cupy Palestine. Meanwhile, U.S. forces have also been dispatched on counter-terrorism missions to the Philippines, Africa, and the central Asian states of what was formerly called the Soviet Union. Some of our top military brass have stated publicly that these ventures already are stretching our military forces to the breaking

point. The tens of billions of dollars spent on these efforts are also straining our economy to the breaking point. But the globalists want more.

One of the Insiders’ new star visionaries is Thomas P.M. Barnett, a Pentagon specialist who openly calls for global U.S. military intervention. He has devised a world map that identifies countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America where the U.S. supposedly must exercise its “strategic security in the age of globalization.” With this program, a military draft is on the horizon, with hundreds of thousands of American troops spread across the globe and our homeland left unprotected.

In June, legislation entitled “Winning the Peace Act of 2003” was introduced in both houses of Congress that would authorize the president to designate a director of reconstruction for each country or region where the U.S. military has engaged in armed conflict or where the U.S. government has committed to rebuilding. This bipartisan legislation is an open-ended invitation for squandering untold billions of taxpayer dollars in every imaginable corner of the earth.

- *Promoting the UN and criminalizing opposition*: The invasion of Iraq, initially sold to the American people as an act of defiance against the UN, has now turned into a major promotion of the UN. The UN is assuming more functions and authority in the country — and is receiving vast new funding, as well.

When Iraqi opposition bombed UN facilities and killed UN personnel in Iraq, Western media accounts turned the incidents into propaganda opportunities to create support and sympathy for the UN. Such incidents can be expected to increase as UN operations in the War on Terror ex-

pand. And, increasingly, legitimate opponents of the UN will be equated with those attacking UN facilities with bullets and bombs. Globalists in the media and political office will accuse those who support efforts to cut off UN funding or advocate getting out of the UN of being in league with the terrorists.

In 1999, the FBI, under the Clinton/Reno Justice Department, issued *Project Megiddo*, a “strategic assessment” of so-called right-wing terror threats. According to this report, people concerned about loss of sovereignty to the UN are dangerously paranoid. The *Megiddo* strategy is back in force.

- *Destroying security and imposing more controls*: The Bush White House and members of Congress are promoting amnesty for millions of illegal aliens. The Bush administration also has dropped its opposition to Mexico’s “matricula consular” I.D.s, which will encourage millions more foreign nationals — including terrorists — to enter the U.S. and take up residence.

This incredible leniency for illegal aliens contrasts sharply with the draconian controls descending on American citizens. Since the 9-11 terror attacks, Americans have been subjected to increasing police controls and proposals that have moved us vastly closer to the Big Brother surveillance society of Orwell’s *1984*. This is especially noticeable at airports, where already passengers are virtually strip searched, and where X-ray “virtual” strip searches may soon be commonplace.

After a few more terrorist incidents, these surveillance and search practices likely will be instituted at train, subway, and bus stations, as well as many more government buildings, shopping malls, sports complexes, and corporate business centers. New calls also are sounding from Insider circles for national I.D. cards with embedded biometric data, or even microchip implants in the body.

- *Erasing our borders and merging the nations*: This November President Bush will host the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) summit in Miami. The FTAA is being promoted merely as a trade agreement to promote prosperity by facilitating the movement of goods and services. But it is an agreement to create an entity like the European Union that will merge the



Bordering on treason: President Bush is continuing President Clinton's push to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), modeled after the European Union (EU). The FTAA would merge the U.S. with the countries of North and South America, effectively abolish our Constitution, and allow millions of Latin Americans to migrate to the U.S.

political and economic systems of all the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Its principal advocates admit this.

A fully-realized FTAA would be the death knell for America. Millions of Latin Americans could legally migrate to the U.S., the same as people in the EU migrate from one country to the other, and we would not be able to stop them. Among the countries that would be new states with us in the FTAA suprajurisdiction are the new militant Marxist regimes of Lula da Silva in Brazil, and Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, both closely allied with Fidel Castro's Communist regime in Cuba.

• *Backing Hillary, polarizing the nation:* During her 2000 senate race, Hillary Rodham Clinton repeatedly pledged to New York voters that she would not run for president in 2004. Although she still denies that she is doing so, she is running full blast now to win the Democratic nomina-

tion. She has put together a formidable campaign organization and has raised tons of money. The CFR-dominated Big Media have given her an invaluable boost with glowing, free publicity that dwarfs that given to the other candidates.

Why would the one-worlders get behind Hillary? Here are several reasons out of many that could be cited: She polarizes the American public along all major lines — male/female, black/white, conservative/liberal, Democrat/Republican — even more viscerally and stridently than does Bill Clinton. As First Lady she participated in many UN and international conferences throughout the world. Thus, she is already well known and has a sort of international constituency that would be very useful in promoting many of the Insiders' key UN agenda items. As the first radical woman feminist president of the United States, she would provide an enormous psychological

boost to the Left and a huge demoralizing blow to the Right.

It has been reported that her campaign organization has conducted polls on how the public would react if she divorced Bill Clinton. In the same way that the lurid Clinton-Lewinsky affair was used to debase the presidency and publicly drag America further into the gutter, a Bill and Hillary divorce would be used to set still more new lows in political discourse and encourage the accelerated decline of the family and marriage. Moreover, our nation's mounting economic crisis and growing problems with the war in Iraq most likely indicate that the Insiders once again will be replacing a President Bush with a liberal Democrat — very possibly Hillary Rodham.

• *Criminalizing virtue, exalting vice:* The incredible advance of the organized, militant homosexual lobby over the past decade has been one of the Conspiracy's great triumphs. If Americans do not arouse in themselves a sense of outrage and revulsion sufficient to roll back the rising tide of depravity, this is what we will soon face: legalized homosexual "unions," followed by homosexual marriages legally on par with heterosexual marriages; increased persecution and prosecution of individuals and groups (Boys Scouts, Christian schools, churches, religious organizations) for "discrimination," "intolerance," and "hate crimes"; abolition of age-of-consent and pederasty laws; mandatory pro-homosexual classes and curricula in all schools.

• *Destroying beauty, perverting the culture:* Although it might seem impossible that the "entertainment" fare on television or the radio could get more degenerate than it is now, that is not so. The masters of depravity intend to destroy all remaining taboos and turn the media that permeate the American home into non-stop channels of profanity, decadence, and the horrible addictive influence of hardcore pornography.

• *Banishing God, worshipping Gaia:* The ACLU and its subversive allies in the media, the courts, and the legislative halls are pressing their militant, anti-Christian campaign with a new vengeance. If they have their way, the Ten Commandments, public prayer, "In God We Trust," "one nation under God," Nativity scenes, crosses and crucifixes, Biblical quotations — all of

Such a gloomy future does not have to be ours, but it certainly will be unless action is taken to prevent the disaster. Please do not sit on the sidelines any longer. Come join us in this epic undertaking. Help us bring about “Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.”

these will be expunged from public buildings, our currency, and all public events. Even private expressions of belief or private displays of religious symbols in the public arena will be prohibited as “divisive.” To fill this vacuum, the new UN Earth Charter would be taught in all schools and posted in all public institutions. Mother Earth, or Gaia, would become the new deity and object of worship.

Take Action Now!

Such a gloomy future does not have to be ours, but it certainly will be unless the proper, resolute action is taken to prevent the oncoming disaster. These dire threats cannot be wished away. In his stirring “Give me liberty or give me death” speech, Patrick Henry noted that “it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and, having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.”

We too believe in knowing the whole truth, knowing the worst, and providing for it. The John Birch Society is an educational army fighting evil with the weapon of truth. However, as Robert Welch wrote in April 1969, “simply publishing good books, articles, and pamphlets, and even getting them distributed, is not, by itself, enough to win this battle. This literature must be read, it must be put to use, and it must be a part of an overall, concerted plan of action. And this is exactly what The

John Birch Society has been doing, and must continue to do in the future.” He noted further that the Society’s leadership “serves as an indispensable anchor keeping tens of thousands of individualists from being swept away by the tide of planned confusion and divisiveness. The discipline of the Society has done much to unify the Americanist forces and to guide them down the line of concerted action.”

Anyone familiar with the Society’s tremendous contributions to preserving our constitutional republic through many fierce battles over the past several decades would heartily agree that this organization has been both a compass and an anchor. Thomas N. Hill, a member of our national Council and our Executive Committee, is probably better qualified than almost anyone else to offer a qualified evaluation on that score. Having joined our staff back in 1959, he was for many years Robert Welch’s right-hand man and confidant. Tom has said of Mr. Welch’s enormous contribution: “Had he not accomplished the nearly impossible when he formed and led the Society through those early years the dark night of conspiracy-led tyranny may well

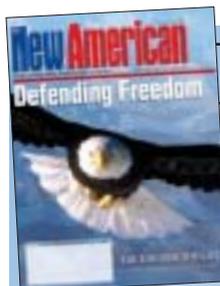
have descended on all of mankind years ago.”

It is my great honor to be a member of this superb organization and be able to work together with the most magnificent patriots in our sacred cause. The organization that Robert Welch founded is still here, still pointing to true North, still committed to the same constitutional principles, still dedicated to the same unwavering purpose.

To all of those wonderful members who have been so faithfully and courageously carrying on the fight for America, I thank you and urge you not to let up now in this heroic effort. To you dear readers who have not yet joined the battle, we extend our hands in welcome. Please do not sit on the sidelines any longer. *Everything* you hold dear is at stake. Come join us in this epic undertaking. Help us bring about the Society’s long-range objectives of “Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.” ■



Eagle photo: Jeffrey Rich; design: Joseph W. Kelly



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The JBS Leads the Way

The organization created by Robert Welch is still in capable hands, accomplishing the seemingly impossible and providing hope that America can be saved.

by Gary Benoit

It is not unusual for an organization created and led by a strong leader to flounder and die after the leader's death. But that did not happen to The John Birch Society when its founder, Robert Welch, passed away in 1985. Why? Because Mr. Welch had created a *principle-based* organization designed to withstand the test of time.

The JBS has had the same leadership team since 1991, with Chief Executive Officer G. Vance Smith at the helm. That team has stayed the course, adhering to the same fundamental principles that Mr. Welch had established for the organization. Consequently, the organization has acquired new strength, and JBS members have won some significant victories. We

present several examples in the following pages.

JBS Accomplishments

- *Impeaching President Clinton:* In November 1997, two months before the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, the JBS launched its campaign to "Impeach Clinton Now!" through a nationwide network of A.C.T.I.O.N. (Activate Congress to Improve Our Nation) *ad hoc* committees. The campaign focused on Clinton's compromise of national security in exchange for Chinese cash as the principal reason for impeachment. Although Clinton was eventually impeached for transgressions related to the Lewinsky scandal, he probably would not have been impeached at all if the Society had not gotten the impeachment ball rolling in the first place. As the liber-

al *Washington Post* — no friend of the JBS — pointed out shortly before the House impeachment vote, "[The success of] leaders of the John Birch Society ... is a demonstration of how a determined and ideologically committed group can change the course of history...."

Of course, naysayers are quick to point out that although the House impeached Bill Clinton, the Senate failed to remove him from office. They ignore that President Clinton was only the second president (and the first *elected* president) to be impeached in U.S. history. Just as they ignore the powerful signal that Clinton's impeachment sent to Clinton or any other president who abuses or usurps power. It is now crystal clear that Congress will move to put the brakes on presidential transgressions *if* they are pressured to do so by informed



Getting results: In November 1997, The John Birch Society launched an *ad hoc* committee, A.C.T.I.O.N., to impeach President Clinton, focusing primarily on the solid evidence of his acceptance of bribes from Communist China. The campaign's billboards, bumper stickers, petitions, and in-depth articles put impetus behind the effort that resulted in his impeachment by the House of Representatives.

The John Birch Society has had the same leadership team since 1991. That team has adhered to the fundamental principles that Mr. Welch established for the organization. Consequently, the Society has acquired new strength, and JBS members have won some significant victories.

voters.

• *Torpedoing Clinton's nomination of Anthony Lake:* President Clinton's 1996 nomination of Anthony Lake for director of the Central Intelligence Agency was a particularly shocking and audacious step. Lake, after all, has an extensive subversive background, including longtime connections to the Soviet-linked Institute for Policy Studies. Putting him in charge of the CIA is like having the fox guard the chicken coop.

Sensing an opportunity to stop this Clinton outrage, THE NEW AMERICAN published a cover story exposing Lake's background, and JBS members used both the article and documentation packets to alert key representatives and senators. The nomination was soon scuttled. But not before an op-ed by Douglas Brinkley in the *New*

York Times complained: "[T]he John Birch Society and other anti-government fringe groups launched a smear campaign.... In an error-ridden article in The New American ... William F. Jasper ... found a pattern of anti-Americanism.... The diatribe would not be worth mentioning except that its ludicrous charges have been picked up, in slightly milder fashion, by mainstream conservative publications like The Washington Times...." Not surprisingly, Brinkley did not bother citing any of the sup-

posed errors.

• *Preserving the Constitution:* Over the last two decades, the JBS has led the fight to block the call for a modern-day constitutional convention. Such a convention could not be limited to a specific purpose, but could propose wholesale constitutional changes including an entirely new Constitution. In 1983, 32 (of the required 34) states had called on Congress to convene a constitutional convention, ostensibly to draft a balanced budget amendment. But because of the Birch campaign launched the following year, seven states have since withdrawn their convention applications, reducing the number to 25.

The JBS also blocked a back-door approach to a constitutional convention through a proposed "Conference of the States" (COS). This project was proposed in 1994 by then-Utah Governor Mike Leavitt, after it became obvious that the open approach to a constitutional convention was floundering. The Birch campaign to derail the COS by presenting the game plan to state legislators was so successful that the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that in "a span of just weeks, the John Birch Society has heaved the conference locomotive off-track."

• *Exposing the OKC bombing:* During the months and years following the 1995 Oklahoma City terrorist attack, THE NEW AMERICAN published a series of articles



Ahead of its time: From its beginnings in 1958, The John Birch Society worked to expose the subversive nature and activities of the United Nations. In January 1962, the Society launched its ongoing campaign to *Get US out!* of the UN.

Patriots in action: Local Birch Society members take the freedom message to their fellow citizens in a variety of ways, including sponsoring booths and literature tables at fairs and conventions, and personal literature distribution.



committees, making it easier for JBS members and nonmembers alike to work together on the specific objective of getting the U.S. out of the sovereignty-destroying UN.

The massive, grass-roots campaign is having a positive effect on Congress. On July 15th of this year, 74 congressmen voted for Ron Paul's amendment to prohibit using any funds in the State Department authorization bill for the United Nations.

• *Calling it conspiracy:* JBS members continue to expose conspiracy, recognizing that *informed* Americans will oppose what the would-be rulers of the world have planned for them. Reader-activists have pushed the total distribution of this magazine's special "Conspiracy for Global Control" issue to over 600,000 copies. In addition, members have distributed large quantities of other magazines, books, articles, pamphlets, videotapes, etc. Of course, members do not merely purchase these materials for themselves; they also place them in the hands of fellow citizens, request that they read (or view) them, and then follow up for a reaction. They also regularly invite fellow citizens to group video presentations, where the important message of the video, including the solution to the problem, may be discussed.

Because all of these materials are distributed, read, and used as part of a concerted action program to awaken Americans to the conspiratorial threat to their freedoms, and then to mobilize them in a program of concerted action, the cumulative effect of many years of Birch activism has been

tremendous. In 1996 a University of Virginia poll conducted by Gallup detected this cumulative effect when it found, without mentioning the Birch Society, that "three out of four Americans (77 percent) agree with the statement that 'the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.'" Moreover: "[O]ne quarter of the population do repeatedly express the conviction that the government is run by a conspiracy; and one in ten Americans strongly subscribes to this view."

Member-based Organization

The success of these and future efforts depends on a member-based organization. Birchers recognize that freedom is everybody's business, and that a majority of congressmen will only do what is needed to restore constitutional government if they receive sufficient pressure to do the right thing from informed voters in their districts. The most fundamental unit of The John Birch Society is the local chapter, and it is through local chapters in towns, hamlets, and cities across the country that the fight for America must be won. Those chapters receive direction from both a professional field staff and headquarters, but it is the organized, concerted action of informed Americans from all walks of life that ultimately will make the difference. Put simply, if America is to be saved, it is informed and involved citizens who will do the saving.

The organization for saving America already exists; all that is needed for it to accomplish that Herculean task is more willing hands. ■

pointing to compelling evidence of government prior knowledge, multiple bombs inside the Murrah Building, other conspirators in addition to Tim McVeigh and Terry Nichols, and a Mideast connection. JBS members widely distributed these articles.

In 1998, then-Oklahoma state Representative Charles Key complimented this magazine's investigative effort when he noted: "THE NEW AMERICAN magazine has, and continues to be, the best source for accurate reporting about the bombing.... Most of the credit for keeping the public informed, in the midst of a mainstream media blackout, goes to THE NEW AMERICAN and investigative reporter William Jasper. Your dedication to this story has become a part of history. I believe history will show that a relatively small group of conscientious citizens can succeed, against seemingly insurmountable odds, in bringing the truth to light."

• *Getting the U.S. out of the UN:* The JBS has campaigned to "Get US out!" of the United Nations for decades — erecting billboards, informing the public, and (during the 1970s and '80s) collecting over 11 million signatures on petitions to Congress to terminate our UN membership. But the campaign entered a new phase in 2001, when the JBS launched its *Get US out!*

Projecting the Lines

JBS founder Robert Welch was adept at predicting what the Insiders would do next. The Society has since used his method of “projecting the lines” to stay ahead of the curve.

by John F. McManus

In the midst of all the weighty topics regularly consuming his hours, John Birch Society founder Robert Welch always maintained a sense of humor. He could at one point deliver a lengthy dissertation explaining that “the increasing quantity of government, in all nations, has constituted the greatest tragedy of the twentieth century.” Then in the next breath, he would smile broadly and insist, “I happen to be 30 days older than this century and, therefore, it should listen to me.”

Had more Americans listened to Robert Welch, the U.S. and its media would never have aided Fidel Castro in seizing control of Cuba. Lionized during 1957 and 1958 as the virtual reincarnation of St. Francis of Assisi and George Washington, Castro could not have survived any airing of the truth about his past. But it was available. Four months before Castro came to power in Cuba, and 39 months before Castro admitted that he was a Communist, Welch wrote in the September 1958 issue of his small-circulation magazine *American Opinion*: “Now the evidence from Castro’s whole past, that he is a Communist agent carrying out Communist orders and plans, is overwhelming.” In subsequent issues of *American Opinion*, Welch devoted page after page to important facts to back up his charge.

But the 20th century wasn’t listening to Welch. It listened instead to the mass media and political leaders, especially President Dwight David Eisenhower, who, in response to a 1963 inquiry two years after he’d left the White House, continued to claim that he had been fooled by Castro. The former president unintentionally paid Welch a high compliment when he stated: “Only a genius and a prophet could have known for sure that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro was a Communist in the 1950s.”

Welch was not a prophet, but he was a genius. (For a profile of Welch, see page 25.) He had done his homework, by study-



Supported by Washington — unmasked by Welch: “Only a genius and a prophet” could have recognized Fidel Castro as a Communist in the 1950s, claimed former President Eisenhower in 1963. JBS founder Robert Welch performed that prophetic feat five years earlier, in defiance of respectable opinion.

ing the past and present. He concluded that America’s foreign policy blunders were not the result of happenstance or stupidity but design and betrayal. By detecting the conspiratorial design, he was able to predict with uncanny accuracy what the Insiders would do next. When questioned about his predictions being out-of-step with the popular opinions of the day, he would calmly but firmly say that “all one has to do is project the lines.” Projecting the lines did not require clairvoyance. Welch could anticipate what would happen because he had studied what had happened earlier.

Three months after first sounding the alarm about Fidel Castro in the pages of *American Opinion*, Welch founded The John Birch Society, recognizing that merely publishing good information would not,

by itself, prevent tragedies like Castro coming to power in Cuba — or the continued erosion of our own freedoms here in America. The published materials also needed to be widely distributed and used as part of a concerted action program.

Robert Welch passed away in 1985, but his legacy, The John Birch Society, continues to “project the lines” regarding Insider plans. Those plans ultimately call for making America a mere province in a global, despotic new world order. Whether those plans come to fruition depends on what patriotic Americans do to expose the Conspiracy and change the course of history.

In the following pages, we present a number of other projections made by The John Birch Society, both during and after Robert Welch’s tenure.

AP/Wide World



The Wall comes down: In November 1989 the Berlin Wall came down, leaving tens of millions of Americans delighted — and astonished. This supposedly unforeseeable development had been predicted in the *JBS Bulletin*.

Welch Predictions

• *World government threat:* At the founding meeting of The John Birch Society in December 1958, Welch warned against “the gradual surrender of American sovereignty, piece by piece and step by step, to various international organizations — of which the United Nations is the outstanding but far from the only example.” He also explained that “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.”

Soon after organizing The John Birch Society, Welch launched the “*Get US out!* of the United Nations” campaign. When he did so, there was little public understanding that the UN was intended from the beginning to provide the framework for a developing one-world government. There is of course much more awareness today.

• *Big government threat:* At the founding meeting, Welch warned against “the conversion of the United States into a socialist nation, quite similar to Russia itself in its economy and political outlook, before police state enforcement is ever introduced.” He also forecast: “Greatly increased socialistic controls over every

operation of our economy and every activity of our daily lives. This is to be accompanied, naturally and automatically, by a correspondingly huge increase in the size of our bureaucracy, and in both the cost and reach of our domestic government.”

• *Judicial usurpation:* Pointing to already rampant judicial activism, Welch initiated the “Impeach Earl Warren” campaign in 1961. He did so while citing the opinion of a respected contemporary that the “easiest place to destroy the Constitution is in the United States Supreme Court.” He pointed to the Warren court’s precedent-setting decisions that undermined states’ rights and favored domestic Communists and their subversive activity. He understood that unless judicial usurpation was curtailed the problem would worsen and would ultimately lead to the destruction of the U.S. Constitution.

In the years since Welch launched the “Impeach Earl Warren” campaign, more recent Supreme Court decisions — banning prayer in the public schools, “legalizing” abortion, striking down state anti-sodomy laws — have made the threat of judicial usurpation much more obvious.

• *Police state threat:* In 1963, Welch launched the “Support Your Local Police” campaign. At the time, many Americans wondered why such a project was needed, since policemen were already highly re-

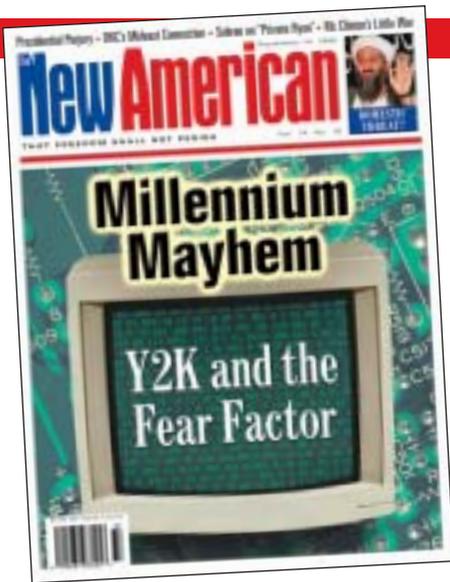
spected by their fellow citizens. That, of course, was before the civil turmoil that rocked the country during the Vietnam War era. But Welch understood even then that the “thin blue line” would have to be vilified as a stepping stone to supplanting independent, local police forces accountable to the communities they served with a national police state accountable to a central government in Washington. In 1967, he added “And Keep Them Independent!” to the already famous slogan he had coined.

• *Betrayal in Vietnam:* In the August 1965 *JBS Bulletin*, Robert Welch warned that the plan for the incipient Vietnam War was to turn it “into a larger and longer and more infamous Korea.” “Does anybody think that there has been any lessening of the power or ruthlessness of the Communist influences in Washington since 1953?” he asked. “Or that the Communists do not use so successful a formula again and again? Or that any war carried on against the Communists by [Secretary of Defense] Robert Strange McNamara or [Secretary of State] Dean Rusk is going to be any different from the one they sponsored in the Congo — or more recently in the Dominican Republic — where the net result was the destruction or demoralization of as much as possible of the native anti-Communist strength?”

Regarding the planned debacle by our own policymakers, Welch also asked, “What on earth would you expect? For twenty years we have been taken steadily down the road to Communism by steps supposedly designed, and always sold to the American people, as a means of opposing Communism. Will we never learn anything from experience?” “There is nothing at all new in history about the government of any nation deliberately fomenting war with another nation, primarily to serve various purposes at home,” he added. Those purposes included, of course, the increase in government that was always justify.

As our involvement in Southeast Asia increased, Welch argued that we should not cut and run as the Left was demanding, or continue fighting a limited war with mounting casualties, but to win the war and then get out. But our fighting men were betrayed, and the war worked to the benefit of the Communists, just as Welch had feared.

• *New world order:* Welch warned repeatedly that the Insiders of a global con-



Dispelling the Y2K Scare: In the years leading up to the new millennium, many supposed experts predicted that the event would trigger a cyber-debacle as computer networks crashed worldwide, leading to chaos and martial law. In 1998 the JBS demonstrated that the Y2K threat was largely hype.

spiracy intended to establish a “new world order.” In September 1972, for instance, Welch wrote in the *JBS Bulletin*: “This plan is to establish — very soon — the first stages of a ‘new world order.’ This will be the very *novus ordo seclorum* for which a self-perpetuating inner circle of conspirators has been working and scheming relentlessly during some six generations...” At the time very few Americans were familiar with the phrase — though the architects of world order had long used the phrase as a euphemism for world government. But public recognition of the phrase made a quantum jump on September 11, 1990, when President George H.W. Bush repeatedly referred to a “new world order” as a reason for sending American troops to the Persian Gulf. On that date, Bush (the elder) stated: “Out of these troubled times, our fifth objective — a new world order — can emerge.... We are now in sight of a United Nations that performs as envisioned by its founders.”

Post-Welch Projections

• *Fall of Communism:* Prior to the apparent demise of Communism, the November 1989 *JBS Bulletin*, written and released in October, warned:

Just as the West is moving toward Communism and socialism, the Com-

munist nations appear to be moving toward the West.... The gap between the Communist and non-Communist worlds is being significantly narrowed in preparation for the merger. Presumably, East and West will meet on a “socialist” middle ground.

As part of the game plan, Communist nations that have always operated under the name of Communism might even give up, or at least de-emphasize, that name. Should they do so, however, they would in effect be giving up nothing since they have always been and would still remain totalitarian socialists. The Communists might even tear down the Berlin Wall and lift the Iron Curtain for the purpose of reuniting Western and Eastern Europe. Such a significant event would win the Communists much Western support. Yet, if Western Europe continues its progression toward socialism and interdependence, the only real winners would be the leaders of the supranational world government.

The November 1989 *Bulletin* was already in the hands of JBS members when, on the ninth of that month, East Germany shocked the world by announcing the opening of the Berlin Wall. Informed Birchers were not shocked, since they understood that the Communist threat would have to be abated for the planned merger of nations in a new world order to proceed.

• *European government:* The cover story articles in the April 10, 1989 issue of THE NEW AMERICAN warned that the European Community, or Common Market, was intended by its architects to become a European government, eventually controlling the political and economic fates of the once-independent nations of Europe.

At the time this warning was sounded, both Europeans and Americans mistakenly believed the propaganda line that the Common Market’s purpose was to facilitate the free flow of goods and services among European countries. A regional government? The notion struck many

people, including those who considered themselves well informed, as silly. These days, of course, the emerging regional government now known as the European Union — possessing its own central bank and currency, and increasingly imposing its regulations on European states — is too obvious to be denied.

• *Overblown Y2K threat:* During the months leading up to the year 2000, many of the financial newsletter writers, and even some voices in the major media, claimed against evidence and reason that the Y2K computer bug was an unsolvable problem and that the consequences on January 1st would be catastrophic. Some even claimed that a collapse of our computer-driven society would provide then-President Clinton with the pretext for declaring martial law and imposing dictatorship.

The John Birch Society, however, viewed the computer bug problem as solvable and did not believe the American people were ready to accept martial law. More than a year before the supposed catastrophe, the September 14, 1998 issue of THE NEW AMERICAN published a cover story by Dennis Behreandt warning: “While the Millennium Bug is a real problem, fear of it is a much greater problem. True conser-



Three years before 9-11, Birchers and other readers of THE NEW AMERICAN recognized both Osama bin Laden’s grim visage and the deadly threat he posed to America.



U.S. Marine Corps



Our overextended military: In September, President Bush, a supposed opponent of the UN, meekly asked for the world body's help with the military and economic costs of occupying Iraq. Who could have seen *this* coming? The JBS — which predicted this very development in June.

vative Americans must not allow themselves to fall prey to the hyperbole and dire predictions of fearmongers and doomsayers lest they be neutralized in the quest to preserve the Republic.”

• **Terrorist threat:** Years prior to the 9-11 tragedy, the JBS and THE NEW AMERICAN offered specific warnings of the impending terrorist assault, many of which have been tragically vindicated. A March 3, 1997 cover story on the 1993 World Trade Center bombing observed: “The leaders of the radical Islamic network responsible for the bombing ... were given financial aid and training by the CIA. Furthermore, at several critical junctures where the conspiracy could have been exposed and its leaders arrested, federal law enforcement either ignored that network or actually provided crucial help to it.... American citizens will pay the price for evils nurtured by a government that poses as their protector.” Osama bin Laden, a key player in the nurtured terrorist threat, appeared on the cover of THE NEW AMERICAN for October 12, 1998, almost three years before 9-11.

George W. Bush: The JBS and THE NEW AMERICAN magazine repeatedly warned, both before and after the 2002 presidential election, that George W. Bush was no conservative, and that he was beholden to the same Insider cabal that had pulled the strings behind previous presidents, both Democrat and Republican. In the JBS *Bulletin* for February 2001, for instance, cur-

rent JBS Chief Executive Officer G. Vance Smith warned:

It does not take a prophet or a genius to predict the course of the incoming administration, any more than it requires a gifted individual to predict that dogs will bark or ducks will quack. That is the nature of the creatures. Candidate Bush did not receive severe treatment from the Insider-controlled media or the “liberal” wing of the Republican party anywhere near as caustic as that meted out to Barry Goldwater or even Dan Quayle. If the Insiders had perceived him as a real threat, rather than a fully cooperating employee, they could have employed any number of means to derail his candidacy. And with CFR members Richard Cheney as Vice President, Colin Powell as Secretary of State, Christie Todd Whitman heading the EPA, and Condoleezza Rice as National Security Adviser, we can peruse the administration’s blueprints each quarter in *Foreign Affairs* [the journal of the Council on Foreign Relations], right along with the Insiders. Let us not kid ourselves: If we were to waste valuable time waiting for the new administration to “prove” itself, all we would accomplish would be to give the promoters of big government at home and internationalism abroad

a running head start to pursue their anti-constitutional agenda.

• **Iraq and UN empowerment:** The JBS has warned that our Iraqi deployment would work to the benefit of, not to the detriment of, the United Nations. Although President Bush’s stated reason for going to war against Iraq was to enforce UN Security Council resolutions (a fact we pointed out time and again), the public perceived Bush as operating contrary to the UN and in support of U.S. interests. Consequently, a U.S. “failure” in Iraq would provide impetus for the internationalist argument that the U.S. must not try to police the world alone and must not act unilaterally. Never mind that the U.S. should not be policing the world in the first place!

In our June 30, 2003 issue, THE NEW AMERICAN’s William Norman Grigg predicted that our Iraqi deployment would result in “a steady and worsening hemorrhage of national power, wealth, and prestige.... Ultimately, those costs will prove too much for our nation to bear alone. In such fashion does swaggering imperialism set the stage for compelled interdependence.... It’s reasonable to imagine a not-too-distant time when American servicemen and their families, weary of the burden of empire, would eagerly embrace transferring that burden to the UN.”

* * *

Major Pedro Diaz Lanz, former chief of Castro’s air force, paid the JBS a great compliment when he said: “If there had been even one chapter of the John Birch Society in Havana prior to 1959, working to expose Castro as Robert Welch was at the time, Cuba would not have fallen to Communism.” Major Diaz was very familiar with both Castro and the JBS; he had been chief of Castro’s air force prior to fleeing Cuba in mid-1959, and after defecting he had spoken nationally for the JBS.

The new world order the JBS has warned against is not inevitable. All that is needed to expose the architects of world order and to change the course of history is for more patriots to get involved in the freedom fight through The John Birch Society. The 20th century may not have listened to Robert Welch, but that is only because the organization he created to magnify his and other like-minded voices was not yet large enough to get the job done. ■

The Big Smear

Knowing that The John Birch Society could foil their plans, the architects of America's engineered decline have long targeted this patriotic group for defamatory smears.

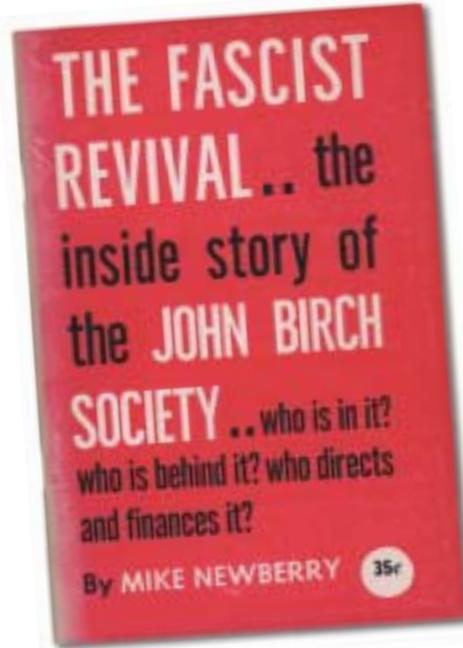
by William Norman Grigg

In the parlance of the Internet age, the word “meme” refers to a self-replicating idea, phrase, or concept that spreads through a population like a virus. Memes can be playful pieces of trivial slang, advertising slogans as indelible as they are annoying, or innovative expressions that usefully add to our common vocabulary.

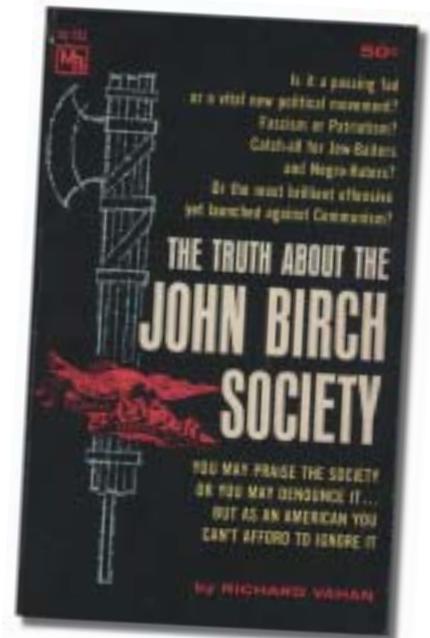
However, memes can also transmit misinformation or disinformation — that is, falsehoods deliberately planted and carefully cultivated. They can also be used to defame, discredit, or dehumanize individuals or groups of people. Once seeded in the public mind, the defamatory meme can propagate itself almost endlessly, infecting the population at large with an artfully distorted perception of the targeted person or people.

The Communists perfected the use of memes, including those intended to dehumanize their enemies, long before the Internet. An official Communist Party directive issued in 1943 decreed: “When certain obstructionists become too irritating, label them, after suitable build-ups, as Fascist or Nazi or anti-Semitic ... to discredit them. In the public mind constantly associate those who oppose us with those names which already have a bad smell. The association will, after enough repetition, become ‘fact’ in the public mind.”

“This lumping together opponents of every description — mild or tough — branding them with some predominantly objectionable label, is an old Red tactic,” observed Edward Hunter, a scholar of Communist propaganda and psychological warfare, in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1961. “It produces some of the more obvious of the patent falsehoods that come out of Red logic ... and reaches such perversions of Socratic thinking as the teaching that war is peace, black is white, and opposition to communism is illegal, whereas pro-Communist



From Marxists to the mainstream: In 1961, acting on orders from the Kremlin, American Communists launched a campaign to defame The John Birch Society as fascist, racist, and anti-Semitic. Typical of this vicious outpouring was a 1961 monograph by Mike Newberry of the *Weekly Worker* (left), which set the tone for more “respectable” libels offered by mainstream publishers.



activity is perfectly legal.”

Hunter informed the Senate Committee that a new “anti-anti-Communist drive has been ordered by the Soviet Communist hierarchy, speaking through and by the voice of the Communist parties of the world, gathered in a rare conclave.” The campaign would also produce “a seemingly spontaneous outpouring of articles and persuasions of every character, that will arise all along the fringes of the communications field where the Reds have influence ... penetrating all channels of the press and all attitude-changing segments of our society, such as schools and churches.” This smear campaign targeted, as the central enemy, The John Birch Society.

Destroy the JBS!

A 1963 report compiled by the California State Senate's Fact-finding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities concluded that the Kremlin-organized campaign to destroy the anti-Communist Right — and the JBS specifically — was a direct response to “Birch actions to throttle Communist activities” in the U.S. In December 1960, 81

Communist-party affiliates from around the world issued a manifesto calling for a “resolute struggle against anti-Communism....” The Communist Party of the United States published that manifesto a month later, thereby setting the stage for the anti-JBS smear.

“So far as the American Communists were concerned, this was an order — plain and incontrovertible,” commented the subcommittee report. “It was an implementation of orders from the highest source of the world Communist movement, and it was therefore imperative that the party here do everything in its power to render the Birch Society, the anti-Communist schools, and other rising anti-Communist organizations ineffective.”

“Overnight, the activities of the anti-Communist groups became the subject of long articles,” Hunter testified. “Anti-Communism only became news when the pillorying of the Birch Society gave [Communists and their allies] the opportunity to refer to all anti-Communism as the work of ‘the Birchites,’ and to smear it all indiscriminately as ‘right extremist.’ Without exception, each of the articles purporting to summarize the anti-Communist movement followed this propaganda line. Each time, too, with a similarity that was unmistakable ... there is a backhanded effort to brand the whole thing as Nazi.”

Publications put out by the Communist Party — the polluted headwaters of this propaganda campaign — presented the “Nazi” smear in undisguised form. Typical of such screeds was a 1961 booklet entitled *The Fascist Revival: The Inside Story of the John Birch Society*. Written by Mike Newberry of the *Weekly Worker*, the Communist Party newspaper, the pamphlet depicted the JBS as a paramilitary fascist organization whose underground cadres (composed of seedy, drunken, dissolute bigots) were plotting to assassinate federal government officials. In his frenzied rendering, Newberry claimed that the JBS was



Leftist labor leader Walter Reuther, in a 1934 letter from the Soviet Union, urged American Communists to “carry on the fight for a Soviet America.” In 1961, as part of that struggle, Reuther composed a blueprint for a federal assault on The John Birch Society.



John F. Kennedy Library

“Camelot” piles on: In late 1961, less than a year after the Kremlin-directed assault on the JBS began, the “anti-Communist” Kennedy administration joined the fray — on the Communists’ side. Denouncing the Society for leading the “discordant voices of extremism,” the Kennedy administration deployed the Internal Revenue Service to harass the JBS and intimidate its supporters.

spearheading a fascist plot to overthrow American “democracy.”

This assault on the JBS was part of a larger effort to create what we might now call an anti-Birch “meme.” “The virulent tone of the booklet ... indicates that the Communist Party would like to create a new, Pavlovian trigger word for this period in its psychological warfare, and believes ‘Birchite’ might be put into the language this way, replacing ‘McCarthyite,’” Hunter explained.

The smear of the JBS tacitly acknowledged the Society as the most significant, and potentially the most effective, means of defeating Communist subversion. This fact was noted by the California Senate Subcommittee:

The feature that distinguishes the Birch Society from other anti-Communist groups is its combination of study and direct action. This provides an outlet for the members, who thus can feel that they are participating in a coordinated campaign. As Professor Alan F. Westin put it: “Unlike those right-fundamentalist groups which have energetic leaders but passive memberships, the Birchers are decidedly activist. ‘Get to work or learn to talk Russian,’ is a slogan [JBS founder Robert] Welch recommends to his followers, and they are certainly hard at work.” This sort of implementing of study by di-

rect action is what disturbs [American Communist leader] Gus Hall and his followers.

The California Senate Subcommittee’s investigation of the JBS was actually instigated by Mr. Welch. As the Communist-inspired campaign to smear the Society took root in California, abetted by statements from high-placed state officials (such as Attorney General Stanley Mosk), journalists and politicians began to clamor for an official investigation of the JBS as an un-American or subversive organization. Mr. Welch responded by sending a telegram to Governor Edmund G. Brown “urgently demand[ing] the proposed investigation of The John Birch Society by the California State Senate on Un-American Activities Committee.” “A dozen or a hundred or a thousand of our members in California will gladly testify and we can assure you that unlike our Communist enemies none of our members will take the Fifth Amendment,” wrote Mr. Welch. “We will gladly cooperate with the Committee in every way that we can.”

The resulting report documented the Kremlin-line origins of the anti-JBS smear and was later republished by the Society. Although the subcommittee was often very critical of opinions expressed by Mr. Welch and by the Society, its dispassionate, even-handed examination of the facts established beyond dispute that the JBS was an effective, principled organization

composed of public-minded citizens concerned for the future of our republic. This was why the Kremlin and its American adherents undertook to defame and dehumanize the JBS.

But the Communist smear campaign represented only one prong of the attack on the Society.

The Establishment Joins In

The initial Communist sortie against the Society came in a February 25, 1961 article in *People's World* (the official newspaper of the Communist Party on the West Coast) headlined: "Enter (from stage right) the John Birch Society." That article regurgitated libels against the Society previously carried in *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, *Trud*, *Literraturnaya Gazeta*, and other Soviet publications. Little would have come of the charges made in the Communist press had they not been recycled by the mainstream American media.

Time magazine's March 10, 1961 issue published a hit piece on the JBS that repeated, almost verbatim, many key points in the *People's World* article.

Even as the Communists and their ideological siblings in the mainstream press caricatured the JBS as a pack of fascists, a whispering campaign was started among conservative activists to denigrate the JBS as a Communist organization. "In the Chicago area right now," observed Mr. Welch in the March 1961 *John Birch Society Bulletin*, "good patriots are not only being informed by written report that The John Birch Society is Communist, but two of Chicago's leading citizens are being specifically named as Communists on the basis of their membership in the Society — and one of them is not even a member and never has been. In Texas the rumor has been widely and efficiently spread that The John Birch Society is trying to get [then-FBI Director] J. Edgar Hoover out of the government."

Another vector of attack came from the Kennedy administration, which the JBS had severely criticized. Coinciding with the Communist anti-Birch campaign that began in early 1961, the Kennedy administration began to explore ways of using the Internal Revenue Service to shut down the JBS and other conservative organizations described by JFK as "discordant

voices of extremism."

In his book *Power to Destroy*, historian John A. Andrew III notes that in late 1961, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy "turned to Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers union and liberal attorney Joseph Rauh, Jr., asking them to formulate concrete suggestions for a counter-attack" against the JBS-led "Radical Right." In December of that year, RFK received a 24-page battle plan entitled the "Reuther Memorandum," which "formed the basis of a broad assault on the right wing by the Kennedy administration," con-



Totalitarian "conservative": In 1952, CIA apprentice William F. Buckley endorsed creating a "totalitarian bureaucracy within our shores." As the Establishment-anointed "conservative leader" years later, Buckley targeted the JBS, confiding to close friends: "I am going to destroy The John Birch Society."

tinues Professor Andrew. "It was the first step toward the utilization of the Internal Revenue Service in what became a covert effort to discredit the right and undercut its sources of support."

Despite enduring persistent — and often illegal — harassment by the IRS, The John Birch Society continued to expand its influence. Having survived Communist-instigated smears and a White House-directed assault from the IRS, the Society was targeted by so-called mainstream conserv-

Since the anti-JBS smear reached its high-water mark in 1965, the Establishment has followed a different approach to the Society — contemptuous silence, occasionally punctuated with slander.

atives, led by William F. Buckley Jr.

As a student at Yale, Buckley was a protégé of CIA operative Willmoore Kendall, a onetime disciple of Communist Leon Trotsky. Buckley was also "tapped" to be a member of Skull & Bones, the campus branch of a notorious international secret society. After Buckley graduated, Kendall introduced Buckley to James Burnham, another "ex"-Trotskyite with CIA connections. Eventually Buckley joined the CIA and (by his own admission) received training in "deep cover" work. It was around that time that the future conservative leader penned an essay for *America* magazine opining that the Cold War would require "a totalitarian bureaucracy within our shores" and its "attendant centralization of power in Washington." In 1955, Buckley — surrounding himself with "ex"-Communists and CIA-connected figures — inaugurated *National Review* magazine, which the Establishment immediately embraced as the flagship conservative journal.

Shortly after the combined Communist/Kennedy administration attack on the JBS began, *National Review* joined the assault. A lengthy editorial published in the February 13, 1962 issue insisted that "Robert Welch is damaging the cause of anti-Communism" by "distorting reality." Abetted by Buckley and other "responsible conservatives" (a label Buckley devised), the Republican establishment waged an escalating campaign against the JBS. The attacks reached a crescendo during the 1964 Republican National Convention. At that gathering New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, addressing a national television audience, denounced the forces of "extremism," including "the Nazis, the Klan, the Communists, and the John Birch Society."

In this fashion, Rockefeller employed what has come to be known as the "sand-

The assaults on the Society began shortly after its birth; they persist to this day, and will continue for as long as the JBS endures. This is because the JBS combines sound education and concerted action to offer a uniquely effective way to combat and reverse our nation's decline into collectivist tyranny.

nist regimes abroad would collapse without the material aid that our supposedly anti-Communist government was providing to them. He also warned that our interventionist foreign policy would not only impoverish our nation, but would also bind our nation in a web of interdependence, ultimately leading to the total surrender of our

wich smear” — inserting a reference to The John Birch Society in a list that included certifiable hate groups or subversive movements.

In 1965, Buckley reportedly confided to close friends, “I am going to destroy The John Birch Society.” That year, his magazine published a lengthy diatribe intended to excommunicate the JBS from the conservative movement. Twenty-five years later, when Buckley stepped down as *National Review’s* editor, he told the *Washington Post* that the “absolute exclusion” of the JBS and other so-called extremists from the conservative movement was “the magazine’s most important accomplishment....”

Battered but Unbowed

“Not since the furious campaign of calumny directed against the [pre-World War II] America First Committee has a group on the Right had to endure such a barrage of negative publicity — and with little if any justification,” summarized historian Justin Raimondo in *Reclaiming the American Right*.

The reason why Buckley and the conservative wing of the Establishment joined “with the liberals in a smear campaign of massive proportions was that the Birchers refused to fall in line behind the Cold War foreign policy of the New Right,” continued Raimondo. Rather than supporting the Establishment Right’s agenda — global interventionism, committing our nation in a series of UN-affiliated alliances, shoveling out billions in foreign aid, and building the “totalitarian bureaucracy” at home endorsed by Buckley — the JBS prescribed radically reducing the central government’s size, cost, and invasiveness.

Robert Welch understood that Commu-

sovereignty.

“The JBS was inveighing against the New World Order years before George Bush popularized that sinister phrase,” re-



Neo-Nazi murderer Benjamin Smith belonged to the “World Church of the Creator,” whose founder Ben Klassen took the Communist-inspired smear of the JBS at face value. Shortly after joining the JBS, Klassen — disgusted that the Society abhorred his racist and anti-Semitic views — angrily resigned, complaining that promoting bigotry was grounds for expulsion from the Birch Society.

calls Raimondo. “For more than thirty years, the smear brigade derided these concerns as the perfervid fantasies of discredited ‘conspiracy theorists.’ When the plans of the internationalists for a world government backed by U.S. troops and tax dollars unfolded on the front pages of our newspapers, the Society crowed: ‘JBS — Ahead of its time!’ — and justifiably so.”

Since the anti-JBS smear reached its high-water mark in 1965, the Establishment has followed a different approach to the Society — contemptuous silence, occasionally punctuated with slander. When a suitable occasion arises — such as the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, or the 9-11 attacks — various organs of the establishment opinion cartel will emit warnings about the dangers of “extremism” that invariably invoke the Communist Party line circa 1961.

A museum-quality example of this approach appeared in a May 13, 1996 *Christian Science Monitor* op-ed column by Ira Straus, then the chairman of the Committee for the U.S. in NATO. Although Timothy McVeigh and “others unknown” carried out the OKC bombing, Straus contended, Birchers were actually to blame for the atrocity.

“For decades,” Straus wrote, “the John Birch Society has spread word of the Conspiracy: The international bankers who pull all the strings. The ones who really control both the Communist conspiracy and the United States government. The Trilateral Commission. The Federal Reserve, which is ruining our money. The Council on Foreign Relations — psst, they’re out to destroy the Constitution, take away our guns, and enslave us in a United Nations One-World Communist government. Their code words: ‘New World Order.’”

Straus didn’t demonstrate how the JBS viewpoint was in error, nor did he demonstrate that McVeigh was affiliated or sympathized with the Society. Instead he scrupulously followed the template for creating an anti-Birch “meme” laid out by the Communists decades earlier: tirelessly associate the Society with criminals, terrorists, and subversive elements.

“What is the milieu in which criminal groups of ‘freemen’ and Oklahoma City bombers grow?” asked Straus. “It is the underworld of conspiracy theory, a subculture in which people share fantasies of fighting heroically against a huge Conspiracy that is taking over the world.... Conspiracy theory is doing America real harm. Long incubating underground, it has grown into the greatest enslaver of human minds since Communism. It irrationalizes

thinking on every issue. It kills. It turns millions of Americans against their own country. It undermines foreign policy by vilifying our government's every effort."

Another opportunity to resurrect the Communist-coined anti-JBS smear came in July 1999, when Benjamin Smith, an adherent of an anti-Semitic group called the World Church of the Creator (WCO) went on a shooting rampage, killing and wounding several people in the Chicago area before taking his own life. A profile of the WCO published by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* claimed that the group's founder, Ben Klassen, was a "lifetime John Birch Society member..."

In fact, Klassen — like a handful of other anti-Semitic miscreants — joined the JBS subsequent to the high-profile smear campaign, because he took at face value the defamatory depiction of the organization as a neo-Nazi cabal. When he became aware that the JBS is welcome to honorable Americans of all faiths and backgrounds, Klassen resigned in disgust — in 1969, decades before taking his own life. "[T]o read the Birch literature, one would

never even get a hint of the real culprits," wrote Klassen in his letter of resignation, referring to his demented assumption that "the Jews" are the real "enemy." "In fact, the members are led to believe that no Jewish conspiracy exists, and [to blame Jews for our problems] is the cardinal sin and grounds for expulsion from the Birch Society," whined the hateful Klassen.

Echoes of the anti-JBS "meme" were found in *Project Megiddo*, a 1999 FBI report warning that "right-wing extremists" — the JBS in particular — posed a terrorist threat at the turn of the millennium. The FBI document was produced by a network of radical "watchdog" organizations and activists, many connected to the hard-core Marxist revolutionary Left. And following the horrific 9-11 attacks, the same "watchdogs" took up the cudgels once again, insisting that the attack on our nation by radical Islamic terrorists justified a federal crackdown on domestic "extremist groups" such as the JBS.

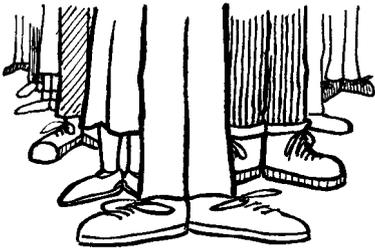
The November 19, 2001 *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, for instance, cited reports from "watchdogs" that "there are as

many as 25 hate groups in Wisconsin" and that "such groups [are] ... pounding on immigration, civil liberties and anti-Israel themes..." A chart accompanying the *Journal-Sentinel* article, entitled "A Geography of Hate," displayed a map of Wisconsin on which were marked the locations of various "hate groups." Included in that category were various Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazi, and skinhead groups, several self-styled "militia" units, a handful of "Christian patriot" associations, the Wisconsin branch of the U.S. Constitution Party, and the home office of The John Birch Society.

The assaults on the Society began shortly after its birth; they persist to this day, and will continue for as long as the JBS endures. This is because — as the California Senate Fact-finding Subcommittee pointed out four decades ago — the JBS combines sound education and concerted action to offer a uniquely effective way to combat and reverse our nation's decline into collectivist tyranny. As long as it exists, the JBS will remain the target of defamatory smears generated by the architects of our engineered decline. ■

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Americanism's Standard-bearer

Robert Welch launched an unprecedented movement to expose and rout the worldwide collectivist conspiracy.

by William F. Jasper

How often has public calamity been arrested on the very brink of ruin by the seasonable energy of a single man?... One vigorous mind without office, without situation, without public functions of any kind ... I say one such man confiding in the aid of God, and full of just reliance in his own fortitude, vigor, enterprise, and perseverance, would first draw to him some few like himself, and then that multitudes hardly thought to be in existence, would appear and troop about him.

— Edmund Burke

To those familiar with the life, words, and works of Robert Welch, it must seem that Mr. Burke's lines above, though penned in 18th-century England, were written precisely and prophetically with this great 20th-century American patriot in mind. In that calamitous century, a great many heroic men arose in every land to fight the good fight — and to rally others in the fight — against organized evil, against totalitarian tyranny. Many of these valiant heroes perished in the brutal fray, their noble deeds known only to God, and their selfless sacrifices unremembered and unsung by their countrymen.

Robert Welch recognized, as an “heir to the ages,” and as a debtor to these courageous souls, a sacred obligation to carry on their fight. It was with a profound sense of duty to God, family, and country, and with a firm determination to stop, reverse, and rout the global advance of Communism, specifically, and collectivism, generally, that, in 1958, he founded The John Birch Society and dedicated the remainder of his life to this purpose.

This article (abridged) originally appeared in the December 6, 1999 issue of THE NEW AMERICAN.

Renaissance Man

Robert Welch was a true genius, a child prodigy who began reading at two, tackled algebra at age six, read all nine volumes of John Clark Ridpath's formidable *History of the World* at age seven, and entered the Uni-



versity of North Carolina at age 12. He was a genuine “Renaissance Man,” a world traveler, conversant in several languages, and an avid, lifelong student of history, language, philosophy, economics, mathematics, science, geography, chess, poetry, classical literature, politics, and other subjects.

The life of this remarkable man began at the turn of the century, on December 1, 1899, on a farm in Chowan County, North Carolina. He was schooled at home by his mother, Lina Welch, who not only nurtured young Robert's precocious intellect and

love of knowledge, but also instilled in him good habits and strong moral convictions. Honesty, a strong work ethic, good manners, respect for one's elders, responsibility, generosity — these and other virtues were fused into the character of Robert Welch at an early age. When he entered high school at 10, he was already far advanced, academically, beyond the level of his older classmates.

Robert Welch entered the University of North Carolina at age 12, and graduated at age 16 in the top third of his class — despite a couple years when his grades fared poorly due to his frequent skipping of classes to pursue his interests in poetry, French literature, and chess. Meanwhile, the United States had entered World War I and so, at 17, he enrolled at the U.S. Naval Academy, probably the only plebe ever to start at Annapolis with a college degree already in hand. In 1919, with the war over and other interests beckoning, Robert Welch resigned from the academy. After two years, he ranked fourth in a class of nearly one thousand cadets.

It was off to Cambridge, Massachusetts, then, and Harvard Law School for the young scholar. There Welch would clash repeatedly with Marxist law professor Felix Frankfurter, whom Franklin D. Roosevelt would later appoint to the Supreme Court. After two and a half years at

Harvard Law School, Welch determined to launch out into the business world. With a recipe for fudge and less than a hundred dollars capitalization, he launched his candy manufacturing enterprise. Later, he joined his younger brother James' candy firm, the James O. Welch Company, as its vice president. Over the years, he became a recognized leader in the business community, serving as vice president of the National Confectioners Association and chairman of the Education Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Robert Welch was a true genius. He began reading at two, tackled algebra at age six, and entered the University of North Carolina at age 12. He was a genuine “Renaissance Man,” a world traveler, conversant in several languages, and a lifelong student of history, mathematics, literature, and other subjects.

In 1946, Welch journeyed to England to study the destructive impact on that country of its socialist Labor Government. He was alarmed and distressed by the pursuit of similarly destructive policies by our own federal government. He was even more alarmed by the foreign policies of the Truman State Department, which were betraying our allies and assisting the establishment of Communist regimes in Europe and Asia.

In 1951, following President Truman’s unjust firing of General Douglas MacArthur, Welch penned his first major political work, entitled *May God Forgive Us*. It had begun as a lengthy letter to a friend outlining the calamitous results of America’s post-World War II policies and the global Communist advance. Welch sent copies to several friends and was soon besieged with requests for additional copies. He had several hundred copies printed up, which resulted in requests for *tens of thousands* more. We were at war with the Communists in Korea, and Welch’s incisive analysis of America’s defeats and retreats so soon after our victories over Germany and Japan struck a responsive chord with the American public. In 1952, conservative book publisher Henry Regnery began printing *May God Forgive Us* in book form, and before year’s end had sold 200,000 copies. Virtually overnight, Robert Welch had become one of America’s top-selling anti-Communist writers.

In 1954, Robert Welch’s second explosive book, *The Life of John Birch*, appeared. He had stumbled across the amazing story of this American military hero and Christian martyr while conducting research in the congressional committee files in Washington, D.C. (For a profile of John

Birch, see page 31.)

Welch intensified his study of global political developments, including trips to many foreign lands to see firsthand what was happening. He became friends with some of the leading anti-Communist leaders of the world and developed contacts that would prove vitally important in years to come. In 1955, he visited President Syngman Rhee of South Korea, who later wrote to him: “I must confess I did not know we had such a

ed President Syngman Rhee of South Korea, who later wrote to him: “I must confess I did not know we had such a



Child prodigy: Welch (in front) entered the University of North Carolina at age 12.

staunch ally and champion as you in America.” He also met with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in 1955, and again 10 years later.

By 1956, Welch knew he must do more in the fight to save America, and so he left the candy business to publish a “now-and-then magazine” called *One Man’s Opinion*. As the circulation to his journal skyrocketed and demands for coverage of more issues increased, Welch changed the

title of his publication in 1958 from *One Man’s Opinion* to *American Opinion* to accommodate the contributions of other authors. *American Opinion* (the immediate predecessor to THE NEW AMERICAN) quickly became the premier forum of analysis and commentary for America’s top anti-Communist, free market thinkers and writers.

Founding the JBS

But Welch knew that much, much more must be done to stop and reverse the deadly course on which America was heading. Following Edmund Burke’s counsel, this “one vigorous mind without office, without situation, without public functions of any kind,” determined to “first draw to him some few like himself.”

Late in 1958, Robert Welch extended invitations to 17 influential and respected men to meet him for a two-day presentation on an urgent matter. Eleven of the 17 accepted and joined him in Indianapolis on December 8th and 9th. This group was heavily represented by former officers of the National Association of Manufacturers who, through their association with Welch, had gained a great deal of respect for his knowledge of contemporary affairs. His in-depth, two-day survey of the state of the world was a brilliant but grim examination of the current Communist/collectivist threat to America and the Free World. He did not pull any punches about the total inadequacy of the myriad of anti-Communist organizations opposing the Communist juggernaut. “At present,” said Welch, “we are in the position of trying to defeat a disciplined, well-armed, expertly commanded army with a collection of debating societies. And it can’t be done.”

The constantly changing, elected leadership, parliamentary structure, and democratic methods of most voluntary organizations could not possibly provide the kind of efficiency, effectiveness, and steadfastness of purpose that would be essential to succeed in this fight. Only completely determined, solid, monolithic, principle-based leadership could provide an organization protection internally against infiltration, splintering, and inside fighting. At

the conclusion of this presentation, Welch announced his plan to begin building a national, grassroots, education/action organization that *would* be capable of defeating the enemy arrayed against us. He intended to name it, he said, after John Birch, whose heroic qualities exemplified everything that was good about America and mirrored exactly the noble character traits that would be necessary for victory in this epic struggle. And so began The John Birch Society, an organization Welch led for the next quarter of a century.

World events soon vindicated many of the predictions and warnings presented by Welch at that founding meeting (the transcript of which became *The Blue Book of The John Birch Society*). He had told the Indianapolis attendees, for instance: "If you have any slightest doubt that Castro is a Communist, don't. If he is successful, time will clearly reveal that he is an agent of the Kremlin."

But Welch did not wait for "time" to reveal what was already obvious. In the February 1959 issue of *American Opinion*, he published a concise but withering exposé of Castro's Red bona fides. That was followed in April with the entire issue of *American Opinion* devoted to fully documenting "the fact that Castro was, and all of his adult life had been, a vicious, lying, brutal, murdering Communist." If such a statement seems self-evident today, please be informed that at the time Comrade Fidel was being celebrated as an *anti-Communist*. According to the Eisenhower administration, the *New York Times*, the U.S. State Department, Harvard University, *Reader's Digest*, and virtually the entire Establishment media chorus, Castro was the "George Washington" of Cuba.

The same chorus heaped scorn and ridicule on the Birch Society founder for daring to besmirch their darling Fidel, and for two years kept bleating their unalloyed praises of the new Cuban "liberator." Some of these self-anointed "experts" continued their adulation even after Castro, having consolidated his power, himself came forward to boast that he was indeed a Communist and had been one all along. All of which went a long way toward establishing the credibility of Robert Welch and the Birch Society with all who had eyes to see. Moreover, the American people were becoming more and more out-



Romance with education: Welch, with wife Marian and a portion of his personal library, was an avid, lifelong student of history, language, philosophy, economics, mathematics, science, geography, chess, poetry, classical literature, politics, and other subjects.

raged and were demanding to know how it could be that our government had made yet another terrible mistake, this time installing a Communist dictator on our very doorstep.

In its first months of existence, the Society scored a major victory by organizing a nationwide protest against the 1959 Eisenhower-Khrushchev Summit and the exchange visits in Moscow and Washington planned for the two leaders as a send-up before the summit. The JBS hastily organized the Committee Against Summit Entanglements, with Robert Welch serving as chairman. The committee ran full-page ads in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Dallas News*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *Arizona Republic*, and scores of other newspapers throughout the country.

Public reaction was so favorable to the Birch ad campaign, and so unfavorable to President Eisenhower's overtures toward the "Butcher of Budapest," that Khrushchev's anticipated propaganda coup was a crashing failure and the Eisenhower return visit to Moscow was called off. Once back in Moscow, a furious Khrushchev delivered a scathing speech reporting on his visit. "There are forces in the United States working against us," he said. "They must be publicly whipped, subjected to the tor-

ments of Hell!"

Those torments were not long in coming. The Communist attack was launched on February 25, 1961, with a lead smear in *People's World*, an official newspaper of the Communist Party, under the headline "Enter (from stage right) the John Birch Society." The Society found itself falsely accused of racism, anti-Semitism, fascism, Nazism, Ku Kluxism, and the entire litany of defamatory labels. Birchers were called paranoids, extremists, radicals, super-patriots, hatemongers, bigots, subversives, lunatics, and fanatics.

Like the defamatory attacks against the JBS carried in *Pravda* and other Soviet publications, the *People's World* article would have had little effect on its own, since few Americans read it, and fewer still placed any credibility in an openly Communist publication. However, when *Time* magazine, and then much of the rest of the mainstream media, quickly followed with a sustained torrent of screeching tirades echoing the same charges as the *People's World*, it was evident to all knowledgeable anti-Communists that the Society was in for a smear the likes of which had not been seen since Senator Joseph McCarthy had been singled out for similar treatment a decade earlier. (See "The Big Smear" on page 19.)

“Every day we see confirmation of the wisdom and warnings of Robert Welch,” says G. Vance Smith, the current CEO of The John Birch Society. “I am especially impressed with his extraordinary foresight in creating a principle-centered organization that could withstand ... the test of time.”

Insider Reaction

Joining in the vicious attacks on the Society were many of the Establishment politicians, industrialists, and financiers who had been longtime apostles of appeasement of and cooperation with Communism. But they were not, as far as anyone knew, members of the Communist Party. What exactly was their relationship to the Communists and how could they be properly designated? Through his own intensive historical research, and that of many others, Welch came to understand that the Communist Conspiracy was but the overt, militant arm of a much larger and older conspiracy.

In fact, the bloodline of the Communist Conspiracy ran directly back to the French Revolution of 1789 and to the secret group that orchestrated the bloody events of that period, the Order of the Illuminati. Founded in Bavaria in 1776, this occult, criminal cabal was dedicated to the destruction of Christendom and the establishment of a “new world order” under the global dominion of its secret brotherhood.

In his famous 1964 speech, “More Stately Mansions,” Robert Welch outlined the history of this incredibly ruthless “Master Conspiracy,” of which the Communists are only the most visible and openly militant arm. This was developed further in his brilliant 1966 essay, “The Truth In Time,” and in subsequent essays in *The John Birch Society Bulletin* and *American Opinion*. In his 1966 essay he introduced the term “Insiders” to identify the inner, ruling clique of this satanic conspiracy.

The Insiders and Communists were (and are) not much perturbed by the many anti-Communist and patriotic groups that restrict their opposition to the “field of

ideas.” What they can’t tolerate is individuals and groups who expose the Communists and the Insiders behind and above the Communists.

The Insiders realized almost immediately that the JBS was not just another “debating society.” They were facing a monolithic organization of highly educated, highly motivated

constitutionalist activists carrying out a concerted, coordinated action agenda under the direction of a very capable and



Founder and namesake: Welch saw in missionary-soldier John Birch (portrait) those heroic qualities that exemplified the goodness of America and mirrored the noble character traits that would be necessary for victory.

determined leader who could not be bribed, corrupted, intimidated, or diverted. They understood that Robert Welch was not bluffing when he said, “We do not intend to devolve into any loose organization, but to become a more tightly knit and more effective brotherhood with every passing month. We know what we want and where we are going, and we mean business every step of the way.”

Moreover, this organization did not get diverted and bogged down in politics. “Ed-

ucation is our total strategy and truth is our only weapon,” Robert Welch repeatedly reminded members of the Society. He had the wisdom to recognize that the prerequisite for any positive, long-lasting political progress was the creation of an informed electorate. And that could only be created through a core base of activists who are committed to constitutional principles above political personalities and party agendas. Welch soon established a nationwide network of local chapters guided by a full-time, paid field staff, a book publishing arm, bookstores, audio and film production, a speakers bureau, specialized ad hoc committees, and a host of other weapons of truth for this educational army.

Lasting Legacy

In 1983, just days before the Soviets shot down the airliner that was taking him to Korea, Congressman Larry McDonald — who had become chairman of The John Birch Society earlier that year, the same year Welch (then 83) transferred the reins of leadership — stated of his mentor: “As a true pioneer, Mr. Welch has cleared the land, removed the stumps, and helped to push out of the way the boulders that were before us. It is now time for us to develop the field, enrich the soil, and prosper for the benefit of future generations of Americans and other heirs of our once great civilization.” Welch suffered a stroke by year’s end — just days after the Society’s 25th anniversary celebration at which, in poor health, he mustered the strength to bid his farewell. He passed away in January 1985.

“Every day we see confirmation of the wisdom and warnings of Robert Welch,” says G. Vance Smith, the current CEO of The John Birch Society. “I am especially impressed with his extraordinary foresight in creating a principle-centered organization that could withstand incredible smears as well as the test of time. Mr. Welch recognized, even if others did not, that the mere publication of truth was not sufficient to rout the Conspiracy. The dissemination of truth will have its desired effect only when it is put to use as part of an organized concerted action program, with thousands of dedicated members pulling together.” ■

Soldier-Missionary

John Birch, fortified by Christian virtue, fought and died in an effort to liberate, in body and soul, China's oppressed masses.

by Steve Bonta

In April 1942, America had been at war more than four months. The long, bloody campaign across the islands of the Pacific lay ahead. Imperial Japan had wrested Singapore from the British, and had expanded her dominions across the Philippines, southeast Asia, the East Indies, New Guinea, and deep into the Chinese mainland. Yet, late in April of that momentous year, a squadron of American bombers, led by Jimmy Doolittle, flew into the heart of this vast empire to conduct an unexpected raid on Tokyo.

Doolittle and his men were well aware of the risks of what was potentially a suicide mission. After dropping their payloads they would simply have nowhere to go, except inland over occupied China. They therefore planned to fly westward until their fuel ran out and then bail out, hoping not to fall into enemy hands.

For several crews, the mission turned out badly. Some were captured by the Japanese, and a few perished. Colonel Doolittle and his crew were more fortunate; after bailing out, they were rescued by sympathetic Chinese and smuggled by river into Chekiang Province.

Several days after the raid, at a tiny village somewhere in Chekiang, a curious figure was eating dinner. Tall, spare, and dressed in coolie clothes, he ate native fare uncomplainingly. He spoke Mandarin Chinese with near-native fluency, and was known to the locals as Pai Shang-wei. Yet he was an American, a young Baptist missionary named John Birch.

While Birch was eating, he was approached by a Chinese man, who, at length, quietly asked the American mis-

sionary to follow him outside. After making sure they were unobserved, he led Birch to a sampan moored inconspicuously on the riverbank nearby. Indicating the boat, the anonymous Chinese simply said, "Americans," and left the scene.



Birch boarded the sampan and knocked on the door, calling, "Anybody in there? Anybody who can speak English?" The group of Americans hiding inside the boat hesitated. Was this a ruse? At length, convinced by Birch's authentic southern drawl that he could not be Japanese, they invited him in. Once inside the cramped boat, Birch found Colonel Doolittle and four crew members. Exhausted from their ordeal, but otherwise uninjured, Doolittle and his crew needed a guide and translator to help them get to American headquarters in Chungking. Birch agreed to personally guide Doolittle and his "Tokyo

Raiders" to safety, and accompanied them as far as Lanchi. From there, he saw that they had proper directions, told Colonel Doolittle where he could be reached, and left.

Partly because of this encounter — which brought to the attention of the American military Birch's unusual talents with the language and culture — the young missionary soon became a soldier, spy, saboteur, and liaison with Chinese rebel forces. In this capacity, Birch worked primarily behind enemy lines and lived off the land under conditions that most common soldiers would have found unendurable. Yet John Birch bore it without protest, confident that, in some small way, he was aiding the cause of righteousness among the oppressed Chinese, a people he had come to love and respect.

Background to Greatness

John Birch, despite being a red-blooded American boy, seemed to be linked by destiny to Asia. He was born in India in 1918, the oldest son of George and Ethel Birch who, like their son two decades later, were missionaries. When John was only two and a half years old, though, his father's health forced them to return to the milder climate of the United States. Young John Birch grew up a devout Southern Baptist, like his parents. By all accounts a sober, responsible youth, John was remembered by his younger siblings for his generosity and kindness. "In our family, we didn't have much money," his sister Betty recalled to a reporter many years later, "so John used to buy us younger children candy and gifts at the dime store with money he earned selling newspapers." Once, John even donated his entire savings to his parents to help defray Betty's medical bills.

A studious young man, Birch attended Mercer College in Macon, Georgia, where

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John Birch was, in the words of friend Captain Bill Drummond, “absolutely fearless, completely unselfish, never thinking of his personal discomfort or danger.” Another friend, Captain James Hart, testified that “where brave men were common, John was the bravest man I knew.”

he graduated at the top of his class. While at Mercer, he decided to become a missionary, and enrolled in the Bible Baptist Seminary at Fort Worth, Texas. After completing a two-year curriculum in a single year, John Birch sailed for China in 1940.

Arriving in Shanghai, Birch began intensive study of Mandarin Chinese, for which he displayed an uncommon aptitude. After six months of training, he was assigned to Hangchow, where he proselytized tirelessly. Hangchow at the time was outside the Japanese occupation zone, so Birch was left alone by the Japanese until the attack on Pearl Harbor. On the very first day of U.S. involvement in the war, however, the Japanese sent a delegation to Hangchow to arrest him, forcing Birch to flee into the interior.

Unfortunately, he now found himself cut off from contact with the outside world, his funds rapidly dwindling. Finding that no bank would cash his travelers checks, Birch lived on his meager savings until April 1942, when, against all odds, he finally managed to cash his travelers checks at Chinese Army Headquarters at Hangchow. It was while traveling from Hangchow, after receiving the money, that John Birch encountered Colonel Doolittle and his crew. Prior to the meeting, Birch had already volunteered to enlist in the U.S. forces in China, preferably as a chaplain. Just days after he helped guide Doolittle and his men to safety, Birch was ordered to report immediately to Chu Chou airbase for duty, undoubtedly because of the glowing report Doolittle gave of him to headquarters.

After a scant four and a half weeks at Chu Chou, where John served as chaplain, he evacuated with several other preachers just ahead of the advancing Japanese, who

quickly overran the base. Under orders to report to headquarters at Chungking, Birch made a harrowing overland journey by truck and train to Kweilin, where he had the astounding good luck to run into General Claire Chennault. The general, who was at the time in charge of the famed “Flying Tigers” of the American Volunteer Group (A.V.G.), gave John Birch a lift in an Army transport plane to Chungking. There, Birch was first assigned to serve as translator for Colonel Doolittle.

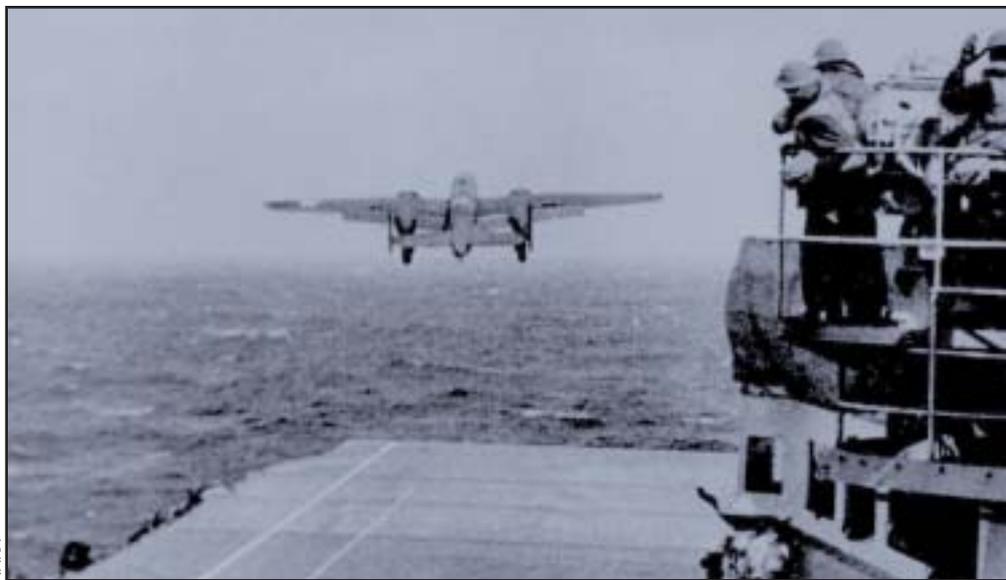
Soon, because of his unique language skills and adaptability, Birch became involved in intelligence work, both in Chungking proper and in the interior, working very closely with General Chennault himself. A natural leader, Birch drew up maps, organized intelligence networks, and, in general, seems to have nearly singlehandedly set up the Intelligence Headquarters for the A.V.G.’s replacement, the China Air Task Force (C.A.T.F.).

In 1943 Birch was sent to Changsha as a liaison and intelligence officer. He not only established an unending flow of intelligence on Japanese troop movements, but also developed a system to coordinate

American air support for Chinese forces engaging the Japanese. Equipped with a field radio and a growing network of Chinese infiltrators and informants, Birch efficiently located enemy ammunition dumps, airfields, howitzers, and other objects of strategic importance, and, using a portable radio, directed American planes to these targets from the ground.

Birch’s network of Chinese guerrillas and saboteurs set up posts along the Yangtse to monitor the movements of Japanese naval forces and the shipping of supplies. General Chennault, in his autobiography, *Way of a Fighter*, lauded Birch as “the pioneer of our field intelligence net.” But Birch’s contribution to the war effort in China went beyond the collection of accurate and reliable intelligence. The brave young missionary also set up a network for rescuing American fliers shot down behind enemy lines. About 90 percent of Chennault’s downed fliers were rescued by Birch’s system. According to General Chennault, this incredible success rate was “the highest percentage of any war theater.”

Birch spent much of his time in the field, usually disguised as a Chinese coolie. His command of the language had by then improved to the point where he was usually taken for a Chinese from another province. Often his missions involved grueling treks of hundreds of miles through the subtrop-



Doolittle strikes: Colonel Jimmy Doolittle led an unprecedented attack on Tokyo in April 1942 from the flight deck of the *USS Hornet*. For the crews of Doolittle’s B-25 bombers, it was a one-way trip ending in China. Doolittle himself was met in China by John Birch and led to safety.

ical heat and humidity of China, living on little more than boiled water or tea with red rice, and enduring occasional bouts of malaria.

Birch the man apparently changed little during all these activities. He remained dedicated to spreading the Gospel, and looked forward to the war's end when he could return to his proselytizing work full-time. To most of his comrades-at-arms, he was a bit of an oddity: He neither drank nor smoked; and he never used profanity. Yet he was never perceived as self-righteous, even by those who emphatically disagreed with his religious convictions.

More importantly, as far as his military work was concerned, Birch was, in the words of friend Captain Bill Drummond, "absolutely fearless, completely unselfish, never thinking of his personal discomfort or danger." Another friend, Captain James Hart, testified that "where brave men were common, John was the bravest man I knew."

Birch's qualities endeared him to General Chennault, who lavished praise and commendations on the young soldier-missionary. A case in point came on July 17, 1944, when Birch was awarded the Legion of Merit "for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service."

Like most lovers of freedom and religion, Birch was acutely aware of the Communist menace. Before the war had ended, he already saw Communism as a potentially worse enemy than either the Japanese Imperialists or the German Nazis. In a 1942 letter to an aunt, he presciently remarked, "I believe this war and the ensuing federations will set the world stage, as never before, for the rise of the anti-Christ!"

Martyr's Death

On August 25, 1945, just 10 days after V-J day, a small group of American and Chinese soldiers under the command of John Birch, who had been promoted to captain, left a surrendered Japanese garrison and proceeded by railroad handcar toward the city of Hsueh. About noon, they reached a section of track being torn up by Communist guerrillas. After a tense confrontation, Birch persuaded the Communists to allow his party to pass.

After another hour's travel, though,



High praise: Birch was decorated by General Chennault with the Legion of Merit for "meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service." Birch's "devotion to duty was beyond anything that was expected of him. I cannot praise his work sufficiently," said Chennault.

Birch and his party encountered a second band of Communists. This group was more hostile, but a member of Birch's party, Lieutenant Tung of the Nationalist Chinese army, still attempted to negotiate an agreement with the Communists allowing Birch and his small team to pass. The negotiations failed, leading to the murder of Captain Birch, the attempted murder of Lt. Tung, and the capture of the remainder of Birch's party.

On what was thought to be his deathbed, an ailing Lt. Tung recounted to Lt. William T. Miller — a friend of Birch and a fellow intelligence agent in China — the tale of the Communist attack. After the Communists stated their intention to disarm the Americans, Birch refused, stating, "well so you want to disarm us. Presently the whole world has been liberated from the enemy and you people want to stop and disarm us." Birch then demanded to see the Communist leader responsible for the order to disarm the Americans and the Communist soldiers agreed, taking Tung and Birch with them. After repeatedly failing to be brought to the Communist commander, Birch, exasperated, grabbed a Communist soldier by the back of his collar and said: "you are worse than bandits." The Communist soldier did not respond and the group walked a little way further. Then someone called out: "Come over here, this is our responsible man."

Lt. Tung recalls:

This Communist then angrily commanded: "Load your guns and disarm him first," pointing to Capt. Birch. Realizing how seriously acute the situation was, I spoke up in desperation saying: "Wait a minute please, if you must disarm him I will get the gun for you lest a grave misunderstanding develop."

At this moment the Communist commander turned and pointed to me ordering, "shoot him first." In an instant I felt a terrible shock and fell to the ground, shot through the right thigh....

Though lying there on the street in a semi-faint, I heard another shot fired and a voice command, "bring him along."

To this I heard Capt. Birch's anguished reply, "I can't walk."

Tung passed out and never saw Captain Birch alive again. Later he was thrown into a ditch along with the dead body of John Birch and left to die. He was severely beaten, suffering from a broken nose and ruptured right eye, as well as from the severe bullet wound in his leg. Gruesome photos taken by Lt. William Miller show the mutilated body of John Birch, his hands bound behind his back as if he had been executed, his face destroyed by multiple bayonet thrusts. A second bullet may have passed through his skull from back to front.

John Birch belonged to that most heroic of all classes of human beings — the so-called common men and women who, in order to preserve our civilization, have fought, suffered, and died by the countless millions.

Cover-up

The death of John Birch, the first American casualty of the Cold War, sent ripples through an American Establishment swooning over Mao Tse-tung and his Communist band of “agrarian reformers.” Mao’s forces could never have defeated Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalists, the greatest force for civilization and liberalization that China had ever seen, if the Nationalists had not already been slated for extinction by socialist elites in the West. With the collusion of State Department subversives, Communists in East Asia had been able to consolidate their gains at war’s end. Communist Russia, which had opportunistically declared war on Japan scant days before the Japanese surrender, turned over huge caches of seized Japanese weapons to the Chinese and Korean Communists. American military aid intended for Chiang Kai-shek was blocked by treasonous Leftists in Washington bent on hastening the Communist apocalypse in the Far East. In the context of such cynical deceit and viciously duplicitous American

foreign policy, the murder of an innocent American at the hands of Communist thugs would be disastrous for America’s media- and State Department-sponsored Mao love-fest.

Accordingly, the Insiders embarked upon a cover-up of the circumstances of John Birch’s death. A 1948 letter from Major General Edward Witsell to John Birch’s mother claimed that

John Birch was killed “as the result of stray bullets fired by Communist forces.” Consequently, the letter stated, he was not entitled to the Purple Heart “as he was not killed in action against an enemy of the United States or as a direct result of an act of such enemy.” Mrs. Birch was not informed of the findings of a report compiled under the aegis of General Albert C. Wedemeyer that contained the testimony of Lt. Tung.

General Wedemeyer had also confronted Communist leaders Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai during a meeting on August 30, 1945, expressing extreme displeasure at the murder of Birch and the capture of his party. Mao and Chou, feigning concern, promised to investigate the matter and punish the guilty parties. However, the U.S. pressed the matter no further. The incident was not mentioned again, the relevant documents were classified, and the official Washington campaign of deception on behalf of the Chinese Communists continued.

Not until the early 1950s did the details

of John Birch’s death become public. On September 5, 1950, California Senator William Knowland angrily announced on the Senate floor that the circumstances of John Birch’s death had been deliberately covered up by pro-Communists in the United States government. Had the facts of the Birch incident been known at the time, he charged, Congress and the American people would never have permitted the betrayal of Chiang Kai-shek and the Chinese people. But by then the Communist takeover in China was a *fait accompli*.

“Common” Hero

John Birch’s life was tragically short. His death, nasty and brutish, came precisely as millions of other servicemen were enjoying reunions with loved ones and laying plans for a brighter future. He was for a time consigned to oblivion to serve the twisted interests of diabolically cynical political manipulators. Only the freedom-loving organization that Robert Welch named in his honor brought John Birch to public attention, kept alive the memory of his extraordinary courage and quiet heroism.

In many respects, John Birch is a far more typical hero than statesmen, generals, and other famous men in powerful positions who have left their mark on history. He led a modest, self-sacrificing existence and died a martyr’s death without public acclaim. It never occurred to him to do other than what was right; he was unencumbered by the moral ambiguities associated with power politics. He defined all of his hopes and ambitions in terms of serving his God, his family, and his fellow men. John Birch, in a word, belonged to that most heroic of all classes of human beings — the so-called common men and women who, in order to preserve our civilization, have fought, suffered, and died by the countless millions. Their bones lie interred at Normandy, in Treblinka, in the Soviet gulags, in the Cambodian killing fields, in the waters of the Florida Strait. Like John Birch, they all died in the hope that generations unborn would benefit from their sufferings and sacrifices, even if their names were lost to posterity. Captains and kings depart this fallen world lavished with acclaim, but we must suppose that the millions of common heroes like John Birch will, in some future, better time, receive the higher honor. ■



Elements of success: Birch (second from left) succeeded in China due to his fine Christian character, his language skills, and his affection for the Chinese people. “I will say that he was the most brilliant, finest, most able, bravest officer I ever met,” said Lt. Arthur Hopkins.

Americanism in Action

JBS members come from a variety of backgrounds, but they all share a zeal to preserve freedom through responsible activism.

by William F. Jasper

The John Birch Society set out early to build up a properly staffed educational army that would have national direction but be organized and active on the local level. It is not a mailing list but a truly grass-roots organization representing a beautiful cross-section of America. The Society's members come from all walks of life and backgrounds. They recognize that defending freedom is *their* responsibility; they cannot merely send in dues to some national headquarters and delegate that task to lobbyists in Washington, D.C. The battle for America must be fought and won in living rooms and local communities. Here are some of the Society's distinguished patriots doing just that.

JBS Prescription

Dr. Paul Leithart attended his first meeting of The John Birch Society in 1960. He would have joined that very night, he says, except that he was called away to deliver a baby. He joined the next week, however, and has been active ever since, serving 43 years as a chapter leader. Dr. Leithart has also been a longtime leader in the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, opposing socialized medicine and other efforts to inject federal interference



Dr. Paul Leithart



Ann Turner

into the practice of medicine.

"As a doctor, I was always busy," he says. "I received tons of mail, but when my *JBS Bulletin* came I always dropped everything to read it. Robert Welch had such a wonderful way of writing and was so incredibly knowledgeable about history and all the vital issues of the day. I learned over the years that the Society was the place to go for reliable, credible information." And, he notes, they are usually "years ahead" of others in projecting the lines concerning where the crucial battles will be fought.

Aggressive Birching

"I may be the one in the limelight," says Mrs. Ann Turner with characteristic modesty, "but without God's help and all of the hard work and active support of so many good Birch members, I would not be able to get the message out, as we've done on some very key issues." As a section leader and Northern Utah *Get US out!* committee chairman, Ann has succeeded greatly in getting the message out. In 2001, she helped spearhead the effort to rescind Utah's petition for a constitutional convention. It was a tremendous victory against what were said to be impossible odds. In 2003, Ann led the effort in the state legislature to pass House Resolution 7 urging Congress to withdraw the United States from the United Nations. Although the resolution died in the closing moments of a hectic legislative session, the effort garnered considerable media cover-

age and focused statewide attention on the many important reasons for severing our nation's relationship with the UN. It also established good relations between Birch Society members and many legislators. Several legislators even wrote letters of endorsement for the Society's video on the UN, which was distributed to all members of the legislature.

Experience Pays Off

Mrs. Katherine Frazier notes that 40 years as a wife, mother, and grandmother prepared her for her current "job" as volunteer chapter leader and "Get US out!" committee chairman in Boise, Idaho. Although she joined the Society in 1978, she was inactive for many years because of family responsibilities. In 2000 she got active again. In 2002, Katherine played a key role at the Idaho Republican State Convention in get-



Katherine Frazier

ting the Idaho GOP to adopt a resolution to withdraw U.S. membership from the UN.

"It's easy for me to be enthusiastic because I have such confidence in the Birch Society," she says. "I have complete confidence in the accuracy of our publications, I know that our speakers will always be



Andy Dlinn

first rate, and our members exhibit an integrity and responsibility that is a credit to the organization and to our country.”

Proactive Patriot

For Andrew Dlinn, being a Bircher means being proactive, especially as it concerns widespread exposure of the Birch Society’s freedom message. As a financial adviser with a strong public relations background, Andy knows the importance of public image. “I urge all of our members to be as proactive as possible,” he says. “I’m so proud of the record and accomplishments of the Society, the beliefs and principles it stands for, and what we are trying to do — save our country and preserve freedom — that I want everyone to know about it.” He does that in myriad ways: letters to congressmen, letters to the editor, manning JBS booths at fairs, placing billboards, handing out literature, contacting local opinion molders, handing out TRIM Bulletins, appearing on local radio, and many other activities.

As an Orthodox Jew, Andy is particularly exercised whenever false accusations are made that the Society is anti-Semitic. “It’s such a baseless charge,” he says, “It is simply a smear to keep people from listening to our message.” Andy joined the Society in 1985 in Columbia, South Carolina, where he became a volunteer chapter leader. In 1993 he relocated to Pittsburgh, Pa., bringing new, dynamic leadership to the Keystone State.

Coast-to-coast Leader

“In 1961 I was enjoying life, very happily playing bridge and teaching bridge, oblivious to what was happening politically,” Mrs. Virginia Lavan recalls. “When my husband went to a Birch Society meeting, I was upset. I thought the Birchers were Communists,” she now laughs. Before long, both she and her husband were very actively involved.

During the battle over the Equal Rights Amendment, Ginny became president of the “Stop the ERA” in New York State, and soon found herself debating Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, and similar radical feminist icons. “Their side had all the money and the media,” she notes. “Norman Lear and others poured millions of dollars into their campaign. We had only \$5,000. But we also had the moms, the dads, and the churches. And thanks to the JBS, we had organization. Everyone predicted we would lose.” But they didn’t lose; they sent the ERA down to a crashing defeat that stunned everyone. Camera crews and reporters from across the nation and around the world beat a path to Ginny Lavan’s door. “That battle proved to me and many others that with faith, preparation, hard work, and proper organization, David really can defeat Goliath,” she says.

In the 1970s, the Lavans moved to Orange County, California, where Ginny has served as a chapter leader, section leader, and speaker committee chairman. To help



Virginia Lavan

pay for the education of their 12 kids, four of whom were adopted, Ginny began a second career as a realtor. She has excelled in that endeavor as well. She was also honored as the “Woman of the Year” for the California Assembly in 1993. This past summer, amongst all her other activities, Ginny served as a camp counselor and speaker at the California Robert Welch University summer camp.

Solid on the Constitution

Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Jim Lightner graduated from the University of Iowa in 1944 with a degree in mechanical engineering. After working for Goodyear Rubber & Tire and Collins Radio Co., he launched his own company, Electrospace Systems, Inc. Based in Dallas, Texas, Electrospace soon became an important contractor in military electronics, working with all branches of the armed services and NASA. In 1988, Jim sold Electrospace to Chrysler Corporation. “I was always conservative,” says Jim, “Senator Joe McCarthy was one of my heroes. My parents were good citizens, patriotic people, who tried to be informed on important issues.”

Jim was introduced to The John Birch Society in the early 1960s by fellow Dallas businessman Nelson Bunker Hunt. “I know a lot of politicians and have helped a few of them,” Jim says. “Most of them talk about the Constitution, but then they go to Washington and vote unconstitutionally. The Birch Society is solid on the Constitution. You can depend on them, and they’ve had a good impact on some members of Congress. We obviously need to expand that impact.” Jim is an active member of the Society’s Dallas business chapter and was a major financial sponsor of THE NEW AMERICAN’S extensive investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing.

The Independent Elector

Dr. Lloyd Bailey, a practicing ophthalmologist since 1960, holds a distinctive place in American history as “the independent elector.” In the 1968 presidential election, Dr. Bailey served as a North Carolina elector. As a Republican it was expected that he would vote in the Electoral College for Richard Nixon. He cast his vote, however, for Alabama Governor George Wallace,

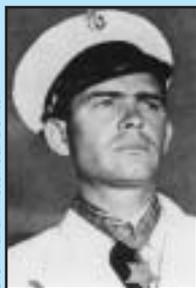
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Men of Honor

Among the elite fellowship of those who have earned our nation's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, The John Birch Society is well represented.

by William F. Jasper

The Medal of Honor has been called our nation's rarest gem. Of the millions of men who have served in our Armed Forces from Pearl Harbor to Somalia, only 842 have received this decoration for heroism above and beyond the call of duty. As of April 13, 2003 there were 137 living Medal of Honor recipients.



John Finn

Hero at Pearl Harbor

When Japanese war planes attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, John Finn was stationed at nearby Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station. According to his Medal of Honor citation, he manned a .50 caliber machine gun in an exposed area under heavy strafing fire. "Although

painfully wounded many times," it reads, "he continued to man this gun and to return the enemy's fire vigorously and with telling effect throughout the enemy strafing and bombing attacks and with complete disregard for his own personal safety."

John and his wife Alice joined The John Birch Society in the 1960s. At age 94, John Finn is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and is also the last surviving recipient from Pearl Harbor.

A Courageous Leader

Col. Lewis Millett served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. His medal of Honor citation records that in Korea he "distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty," in a charge to free a platoon pinned down by heavy enemy fire. According to the citation: "Capt. Millett ordered the 3d Platoon forward, placed himself at the head of the 2 platoons, and, with fixed bayonet, led the assault up the fire-swept hill. In the fierce charge Capt. Millett bayoneted 2 enemy soldiers and

boldly continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement. Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill. His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder."

Col. Millett retired from the Army in 1973, but never stopped fighting. "When I came home, I found that the Communists and their sympathizers and fellow travelers in our government, the universities, the media, and Hollywood were far more dangerous than the ones I was fighting in the jungles of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia," he says. "I was also especially alarmed by the efforts to disarm the American people and to compromise our sovereignty through UN treaties." Col. Millett joined The John Birch Society and traveled the country speaking on the Society's speakers bureau.



Lewis Millett



Model hero: Col. Mitchell Paige, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroics at Guadalcanal in 1942, was a model for the G.I. Joe doll.

One Man Saved the Day

When he was 17 years old, Mitch Paige and a young friend walked and hitchhiked to the nearest Marine recruiting station — 200 miles away, in Baltimore. The year was 1936. A few years later he was on the other side of the world, defending Hanneken's Ridge in a heroic stand against overwhelming Japanese forces during the fierce battle for Guadalcanal. His Medal of Honor citation notes: "When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, P/Sgt. Paige, commanding a machinegun section with fearless determination, continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he fought with his gun and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire against the advancing hordes." He held throughout the night, until reinforcements finally arrived the next morning. Then, forming a new line, he led a bayonet charge, driving the enemy back and preventing a breakthrough in the American lines. The *Daily News* of McKeesport, Pa., noted of Paige's exploits that "one man, alone on a blood-stained field, saved the day on Guadalcanal."

Col. Paige was introduced to the Birch Society by fellow Medal of Honor recipient Col. Lewis Millett. "The Birchers fight with courage for truth and liberty, God, family, and country — that's what I like," he told this reporter last year. "The motto of THE NEW AMERICAN, 'That freedom shall not perish,' says it all. It's the greatest magazine in the world. I look forward to every issue." ■

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the American Independent Party candidate. “It was the right thing to do,” legally, constitutionally, and morally, he says. Although Wallace did not carry North Carolina, he did carry Dr. Bailey’s congressional district.

Dr. Bailey’s vote focused national attention on the Electoral College, which Bailey says is too little appreciated. “The Electoral College is the last vestige of state sovereignty over the federal government,” he notes. “State electors elect the president of the United States.” That is an important state check on the central government that our Founders put in the Constitution for an important reason. When the controversy over the Bush-Gore 2000 elections put the Electoral College in the spotlight, Dr. Bai-



AP/Wide World

Dr. Lloyd Bailey

ley was sought by CNN, NBC, and ABC for commentary.

Dr. Bailey joined The John Birch Society in 1961, at the first JBS meeting he attended. “I was already a Bircher before the Society was founded,” he says. “Robert Welch provided the leadership, the organization and the plan that was needed by concerned citizens like myself to be effective.” More than four decades later, Dr. Bailey is still active in the local Birch Society chapter, which recently placed a *Get US out!* of the United Nations sign on a large, commercial billboard on the I-95 freeway near Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Soldier, Businessman, Bircher

Professional soldier, decorated combat veteran, businessman, researcher, writer.

**CSM Fred Marshall**

Command Sergeant Major Fred D. Marshall Jr. has been there, done that — and more. His service in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1976 included nearly three tours in Vietnam between 1967 and 1972. He participated in eight of the war’s 15 campaigns. His military awards include two Legions of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals, Master Parachutist Badge with 714 certified parachute jumps, and three Presidential Unit Citations. In December, 2001, CSM Marshall became the 248th recipient of the Primicerius Degree of the Infantry’s coveted Order of Saint Maurice. From 1978 until his final retirement in 1997, he was owner and principal broker of a successful real estate brokerage firm in Columbus, Georgia.

“Throughout most of my active duty military career,” says Marshall, “I had been led to believe that the John Birch Society was considered a subversive and racist organization, although I didn’t look into it until after I left the service. What I found, to my surprise, was almost exactly the opposite. The JBS, in fact, is one of the very few forces which is dedicated to restoring the Constitution and the American way of life to United States citizens. Membership is open to people, from all walks of life, who want to live in a society free of government interference in their daily lives. I urge every red-blooded American to join us in the fight to save America — before it gets too late to save it.”

From JBS Camper to Legislator

Mike Coan’s passion for liberty was sparked by Birch Society Chapter Leader Jack Brown. “I came from a broken home;

my dad left my mom with seven kids,” says Rep. Coan. “Jack Brown gave me a job and launched my love of reading. I was 14 years old. He gave me a copy of the Declaration of Independence and said he’d pay me a dollar if I’d read it. Then he paid me to read the Constitution, Frederic Bastiat’s *The Law*, Hazlitt’s *Economics in One Lesson*, Gary Allen’s *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, and many other conservative classics. After a while, I didn’t want the money anymore, I just wanted more books. I read everything he’d give me: books, THE NEW AMERICAN, The John Birch Society *Bulletin*.”

Mike’s rapidly growing interest in politics, economics, and the freedom fight was bolstered by his attendance at the Society’s summer camp in Georgia. “It was such a fantastic experience,” he recalls. “I met kids there who had fled the Communist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, and I learned so much about our American her-

**Mike Coan & family**

itage, constitutional principles, history, and contemporary issues — both foreign and domestic. It was so exciting and interesting. It was so amazing to me that I had never heard these things in school — fundamental principles, such as the fact that our rights come from God, not government. That rights cannot exist without morality, without responsibility. It was inspiring to have the camp start and end each day with prayer and a devotional reading and to be with people of all different backgrounds who take their free-

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Youth Respond to Truth

Robert Welch University youth camps use the spark of truth to ignite patriotism's fire in the hearts of young people nationwide. These profiled youth are shining examples.

by William F. Jasper

Every summer hundreds of high school students attend week-long camps sponsored by Robert Welch University. (These camps were formerly sponsored by The John Birch Society.)

Americanism Begins at Home

Homeschoolers Jennifer Swanson and Danielle Morgan, both 16, are neighbors and the best of friends. Jennifer loves reading and horseback riding, and for the past six years has worked as a volunteer teaching handicapped children to ride. Danielle is an accomplished singer and Hawaiian dancer. Her mother, a native Hawaiian, is a descendant of Queen Liliuokalani. Danielle's favorite subjects are history and religion.

Jennifer and Danielle attended their first RWU camp together three years ago. "I was so surprised," says Jennifer. "I never liked history, government, or politics before, but the instructors made it so interesting. I enjoyed all the recreation and the friends I made at camp, but the classes were the best part. I learned so much." "I was so impressed with both the staff and the students," says Danielle. "They set high standards for moral behavior. I learned so much about our country, the Constitution, the threats to freedom — so many things. I had never been interested in history or political science before, but my experience at camp really made me want to know the truth and to have a deeper un-



Jennifer Swanson & Danielle Morgan



James Williams

derstanding of our heritage and constitutional principles." After attending their first camp in 2001, Jennifer and Danielle recruited six of their friends to attend camp with them in 2002 and 2003.

Spelling C-o-n-s-t-i-t-u-t-i-o-n

At age 14, James is already something of a national celebrity. After winning the National Geographic Bee in May of this year, James was featured on the *Today Show*, the *Early Show*, CNN, and other news programs. He also received a \$25,000 scholarship from *National Geographic* to attend the college of his choice. This past summer he also qualified for and competed in the National Science Olympiad. But neither fame nor fortune provide the primary motivation for James' studies. "I enjoy learning, I enjoy the challenge," says James, who, along with his five siblings, is homeschooled by his parents, Ann and Craig Williams. James is also involved in Boy Scouts, plays piano, and is a developing computer wiz.

In August, James attended the RWU Washington State youth camp. His parents, longtime members of The John Birch Society, saw this as an important component of his overall education. James agrees. "I had read the Constitution before but didn't really understand it," he says. "They explained it and made it very interesting. Now I'm reading *The Federalist Papers* and looking at other books in my dad's library that hadn't interested me before." Since attending camp,

James has volunteered to lead a RWU Youth Chapter and frequently logs onto the RWU chat sessions.

He Values America

Known as the "Voice of Windsor High School," for the last four years Spencer Wells has opened the school day for students in Windsor, Colorado, with official announcements and clean jokes over the public address system. The 17-year-old senior is also student body president and has maintained an enviable 3.98 grade point average while taking a difficult honors curriculum. A voracious reader, Spencer has plowed through an impressive stack of tomes on history and philosophy that would intimidate most adults. An Eagle Scout, as well as an accomplished pianist and mountain climber, he also enjoys



Spencer Wells

drama and has played the leading role in several school and community productions. He attended his first RWU camp in Colorado last year, and this year went to the RWU camp in Washington state. His camp experiences have intensified his already passionate interest in America's heritage. On October 18th he will address the 45th Anniversary Council Dinner of The John Birch Society in Appleton, Wisconsin. The title of his speech is "The Value of America." ■

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dom and their religious faith seriously. I'd get goose bumps when the bugle played 'Taps' each night when we lowered the flag."

Mike received his degree in business from West Georgia College and started his own company in commercial and residential construction. In 1996, at age 27, Mike ran for the state legislature against an entrenched 22-year incumbent. "The press said I had no chance," Mike told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. "But I went door-to-door with the Birch message of 'lower taxes through less government.' And I won with 58 percent of the vote." He is now serving his fourth term representing the people of Gwinnett County, outside of Atlanta. He is assistant minority whip.

**Len McIrvin****Cattle Ranching and Birching**

The western rancher is an American icon embodying the virtues of self-reliance, strength, thrift, and hard work. The McIrvin clan and the Diamond "M" Ranch of Laurier, Washington, provide proof that those virtues still endure on family ranches that continue to provide quality meat to the American consumer. The Diamond "M" is a family partnership started by Harry and Edith McIrvin during World War II. Their sons Clive and Robert joined them in the ranching business when they returned home from the war, after serving in Europe. Clive's son, Len, now runs the ranch, along with his wife, Pat, and son Bill. The McIrvin ranch is home to many trophies for award-winning Hereford cattle. It is also home to staunch patriots and longtime, proud members of The John Birch Society. "Meaning no disrespect to

anyone else," says Len McIrvin, "cattle ranchers are probably the most independent Americans left. There are still some independent farmers left, but the federal government has turned so many farmers into welfare farmers with federal subsidies, set-asides, and other programs. The cattlemen — those of us who actually raise the cattle — are not subsidized, and don't want to be."

Cattle ranching and Birching are a natural fit, says Len, who, along with his wife Pat and other members of the family, joined the Society in the 1960s. They later became Life Members, and Clive and Len became chapter leaders. "We could see personally that government regulation and taxation were driving family farms and ranches out of business, while subsidies were corrupting those that remained," Len told *THE NEW AMERICAN*. "Of course, we want to preserve the ranching way of life," he says, noting that continuing government policies are making it increasingly less likely that his five children and 12 grandchildren will be able to continue the ranching tradition.

Birching Is Fun

Over the past 38 years, Al Foreman has held virtually every volunteer leadership position in The John Birch Society. When he retired as vice president and general manager of the Elkhart, Indiana, division of National Corporation in 1995, Al stepped up his already very active schedule of Birch activities. Al speaks regularly at schools, churches, and civic organiza-

**Al Foreman****Cedric Crawley**

tions and heads the Society's Business and Professional Chapter in Elkhart. Over the past four decades, he has had over 400 letters and op-eds printed in area daily newspapers. "Birching is not only one of the most important things anyone can do," says Al, "if you're doing it right, it's also fun and tremendously rewarding."

Getting to the Heart of It

Born in Alabama, Cedric Crawley grew up primarily in Texas. While attending Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, he became active in the Republican Party and in conservative, pro-life, pro-family campaigns. He also was introduced to The John Birch Society and *THE NEW AMERICAN*. Upon graduating, he moved to Colorado, where he joined the Society. "I found that many of the best informed, most committed activists in the causes I believed in were Birchers," says Cedric. "The more I read and became involved, the more I appreciated the fact that on all the important issues the Society had been calling the shots right for decades, both about the causes of our problems and the solutions. They recognized the deadly seriousness of our situation and were going to the heart of the problem in a very principle-based, organized, moral, intelligent way, with a long-term vision and commitment, not the shallow, media-driven hoopla so typical of political campaigns."

Cedric became a volunteer chapter leader and section leader in Colorado. In January of this year, he joined the Society's field staff as a full-time Coordinator for the state of Michigan, where he has been enthusiastically recruiting new leaders and organizing new chapters. ■

Heroes of the JBS

Throughout the Society's history, patriotic members have staunchly warned of threats to America's freedom and heroically defended the rights and lives of their fellow citizens.

by Dennis Behreandt

In the Foreword to the October 1962 issue of *The John Birch Society Bulletin*, Robert Welch proudly noted that the Society had “welded together what I honestly believe to be the finest body of men and women ever gathered into one voluntary body of a non-religious nature (that is, where each member has his own religion) in all human history.” Time after time JBS members have proven Mr. Welch right. No matter the situation, the men and women of the Society have staunchly defended their rights and liberties and those of their fellow citizens, all the while distinguishing themselves by their patriotism and their honor. In the pages to come we remember a few of these heroes (now deceased) of The John Birch Society.

Klan Hunter

In the August 1972 issue of the *JBS Bulletin* Robert Welch noted the availability of an audio tape of an important new speech, entitled *The Will and Way to Win*. The speech, Mr. Welch noted, was given “by a man who has already and literally faced death and suffered disaster in this struggle for doing what he knows to be right. And he has thus earned the ability to tell others about the will and way to win.” The man who gave the speech was Baptist preacher and JBS Major Coordinator Delmar Dennis.

In 1964, Dennis was serving as a minister of a Methodist church in Mississippi. Out of curiosity, Dennis attended a public meeting sponsored by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan — only to be deceptively entrapped into joining the group. He quickly found that the racist and despicable Klan was dangerously criminal and violent. In particular, he learned of the Klan's plan to kill left-wing civil rights activist Michael Schwerner. Dennis called

Schwerner to warn him of the danger, but Schwerner wouldn't listen. Several weeks later, Schwerner and two other civil rights activists — James Chaney and Andrew Goodman — disappeared. The Klan, it turned out, had murdered them.

Disgusted by the Klan's criminal and



Delmar Dennis

terrorist activities and disillusioned by its overt use of Communist tactics and pursuit of Communist goals, Dennis had stopped attending the organization's meetings early in the summer of 1964, not long after the disappearance of the three civil rights activists. Meanwhile, the FBI had stepped up its investigation of the Klan, an investigation that in November 1964 brought Special Agents John L. Martin and Tom van Riper to Dennis' doorstep. After ascertaining that the two men were really from the FBI and not from the Klan's dangerous counter-insurgency operation, the Klan

Bureau of Investigation, Dennis offered to infiltrate the White Knights branch of the KKK to bring to justice the men who had murdered Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney.

Delmar Dennis reactivated his Klan membership and for nearly three years reported on the group's activities to the FBI. During that time he rose in responsibility in the organization, eventually earning the position of “Province Titan” and right-hand man to White Knights leader Sam Bowers. From this privileged position within the White Knights' “secret empire,” Dennis collected damning evidence of the Klan's role in the murders.

In February 1967, a federal grand jury indicted Bowers and 17 other men for violating civil rights laws. The indictments came, in part, due to Dennis' testimony. The case went to trial in October. FBI historian Don Whitehead, writing in his book *Attack on Terror: The FBI Against the Ku Klux Klan in Mississippi*, noted that “the greatest surprise [of the trial] came on the fourth day, when the Rev. Delmar Dennis, Province Titan of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, stepped through the courtroom and walked to the witness stand. No one — least of all Bowers, who had said of his close aide, ‘There is no one I trust more’ — ever faintly suspected that Dennis had been an FBI informant for three years. The shock that ran through the courtroom was almost visible, and Dennis' testimony was devastating.”

The verdicts in the case were handed down on October 20, 1967. In all, seven men, including Sam Bowers, were convicted of conspiracy to obstruct the civil rights of the three slain activists. More substantial charges for murder could not be brought in federal court since the crimes hadn't happened on federal property. Still,



AFP

Selfless heroism: Piloting a Lockheed Constellation aircraft similar to the one shown above, JBS member Captain Charles J. White maneuvered a miraculous crash landing on December 4, 1965, saving the lives of nearly all of the plane's passengers.

largely due to the self-sacrifice, courage, and heroism of Delmar Dennis, the perpetrators of the violent killings were brought to justice, with "Imperial Wizard" Sam Bowers sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Freefall

The date was December 4, 1965. Captain Charles J. White, in command of Eastern Airlines Flight 853, glanced at the console of his Lockheed Constellation airliner. The altimeter told him that the plane was cruising some two miles above the state of New York. Outside, in the roar of the slip stream, the plane's four massive piston engines drove the sleek plane forward. Inside the passenger compartment, insulated from the noise and violence of the plane's rapid advance through the atmosphere, 49 passengers looked forward to reaching their destination.

An alarmed shout from the plane's copilot alerted Captain White that the previously uneventful flight was in danger. Looking up from the console and through the cockpit window he could see a terrifying sight. Streaking toward them was a huge red-and-white Boeing 707 jetliner. Instantly, both Captain White and copilot Richard Holt pulled back on their control yokes, bringing their big propeller-driven craft into an abrupt climb. In the other plane, the pilot of the big Boeing initiated the same maneuver. But the Constellation was climbing faster than the Boeing. So the Boeing's pilots threw their craft into a dive, hoping at the last moment to avoid a

collision. It was too late. In the Constellation's cockpit, Captain White and his crew felt a seemingly gentle thud as the left wing of the big jet tore into the tail section of the Constellation, ripping off most of that plane's elegant triple tail.

Despite losing some 25 feet of its left wing, the Boeing's pilots managed to recover and coax their crippled craft to a safe landing. The Constellation, though, was mortally wounded. As Captain White calmly announced over the plane's loudspeakers that "we've had a mid-air collision, please fasten your seat belts," the plane's nose tilted into a downward angle and the craft began a headlong descent toward the ground nearly 11,000 feet below.

The crash had ruptured the stricken plane's hydraulic control mechanisms. Both Captain White and copilot Holt unsuccessfully attempted to manually actuate the remaining control surfaces on the wings. The connecting cables too had been disrupted. There seemed to be no hope for the passengers and crew of Flight 853.

Just then, Holt, the copilot, shouted, "How about power!" Captain White knew it was their only hope. As he answered, "Why not," his hand pushed the four throttle levers all the way forward. This was not an attempt to hasten their demise. By throttling up the plane's powerful piston engines, the pilots hoped to bring up the plane's nose. Slowly, the desperate maneuver worked, and with only 3,000 feet to spare the plane achieved level flight. By further manipulating the throttles, Captain

White kept the plane under a semblance of control. Still, it would be impossible to keep the plane in the air long, and they had no hope of reaching an airport. Seeing an empty field, Captain White and copilot Holt agreed it was their best chance. Over the intercom, Captain White had time to make one last announcement to the passengers: "Brace yourselves. Here it comes."

With consummate skill, and despite having only the most rudimentary control over his aircraft, Captain White put the plane on the ground. Gary Holt, brother of copilot Richard Holt and himself a Constellation pilot, marveled at White's flying. "Just that final maneuver alone," in getting the plane on the ground, "has got to be called one of the most magnificent feats of airmanship in the history of flying." Captain White's heroism was not at an end, though. As passengers and crew struggled to exit the burning plane, Captain White made his way through the wrecked craft to help those who couldn't escape on their own. His last effort it seems was to help Army Private Dennis Flucker free himself from a jammed seatbelt. "In my personal opinion," said Civil Aeronautics Board crash investigator Jack Carroll, "there is little doubt that the captain had deliberately gone back to the cabin to help the young soldier." Sadly, neither made it out of the wreckage alive. Amazingly, though, due in large part to Captain White's skill and heroism, 50 people survived the crash.

The January 1966 issue of the JBS *Bulletin* noted with pride Captain White's membership in The John Birch Society. "While we agree that both his skill and bravery were greatly to be admired," says the text of that issue, "it was his *sense of responsibility* which makes him [Captain White] stand out so clearly as having been a worthy member of the finest body of men and women in the world. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. White, who can always be proud in the knowledge that she was married to a *man!* As we are also proud to have had him with us in The John Birch Society."

Businessman and Patriot

"For nearly forty years, I've been fighting Communism in this country," businessman A.G. Heinsohn wrote in his book, *Cousin Mercedes and the White Russian* (1974). Much of his work as an anti-Communist



A.G. Heinsohn



sohn refused to give in to this unpatriotic and absurd demand, despite coming under a great deal of pressure from Pitney-Bowes. Eventually, Heinsohn gave copies of his correspondence with Pitney-Bowes officials to the press and the mail-metering company found itself with a severe public relations problem. "Since I had Pitney-Bowes on the defensive," Heinsohn recounts in his book, "I had the vice-president of our Spindale Mills order a plate for their postage meters with this slogan: We pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. Spindale Mills, Inc."

Unbelievably, Pitney-Bowes refused to supply the requested plate. Apparently, the Pledge of Allegiance was too controversial as well. "When Pitney-Bowes refused to furnish Spindale this plate, the roof fell in on them," Heinsohn recalled. "The *Knoxville Journal* played it up in a first page story, headed: 'U.S. Allegiance Pledge Called Controversial.'" Newspapers nationwide carried the story, and Pitney-Bowes, faced with ridicule from every corner, relented. The Spindale Mill got its plate, and Heinsohn's other mill was able to keep using the Birch slogan. In this and the many other skirmishes in which he participated, Heinsohn repeatedly showed just how effective a determined JBS member can be in opposing the prevailing collectivist atmosphere.

Anti-Communist Heroine

In 1947, Julia Brown, a young black woman living in Cleveland, Ohio, joined what she believed to be a civil rights organization. Very soon, however, she realized that she had actually joined a local branch of the Communist Party. Brown initially knew next to nothing about Communism, but she was a quick study and soon discovered the Party's true intentions. She resolved immediately to stay away from the Communists from that point forward. She even took her concerns about the Communists to the FBI, but was surprised to learn that the Bureau knew all about the Communists' intentions.

In 1951, however, the FBI came back to Mrs. Brown. Would she, they

asked, be willing to become active in the Party again and report back to the Bureau on its activities and intentions? Brown, a proud American and a patriot, agreed, beginning what would become nine long years of dangerous undercover work within the Communist Party. In 1962, her work at an end, she testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The committee's report for that year noted that Brown had given valuable information on "the activities of more than 100 current and former individuals ... she had known to be members of the Communist Party."

But Brown's important anti-Communist efforts were far from over. Joining The John Birch Society she became a popular speaker, telling her story to enthralled audiences around the country. So effective was she in exposing the Communist agenda that Martin Luther King Jr. often canceled announced speaking engagements in cities where Brown had recently spoken.

Throughout her long career with The John Birch Society, Julia Brown was an inspiring speaker, urging Americans not to fall for the Communist ploy to create divisions between black and white Americans. "I don't refer to Negro-Americans, or white-Americans, or any kind of American," she said, "except red-white-and-blue Americans."



Julia Brown

Constitutionalist Congressman

In 1975, Dr. Lawrence Patton McDonald was sent to the U.S. Congress by the people of his district in Georgia. During his tenure as a congressman, Dr. McDonald proved to be one of the country's most influential statesmen. An implacable foe of Communism, he opposed at every turn Soviet initiatives calculated to weaken the United States. He also frequently reminded voters fixated on presidential politics of the central importance of Congress. Due to his important position in Congress and his unflinching conservatism, Larry McDonald was named to the advisory boards of several conservative organizations. His heart, though, was with The John Birch Society.

Long before being elected to Congress, Dr. McDonald worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the Society. As chapter leader and section leader he worked to move the Society's campaigns forward. In 1967 he was appointed to the Society's National Council. Throughout his time with the Society he believed there was a chance and an obligation to build "an informed electorate and understanding at the grass-roots level" that could have an impact in Congress. "In my opinion," he told fellow conservatives, "the best way to discharge that obligation is by being an active member of the John Birch Society." It was his effective work at the grass-roots level, building understanding in the electorate through the campaigns and programs of The John Birch Society, that created the conditions that made it possible for a conservative outsider to challenge a liberal incumbent congressman and win a seat in the House. Dr. McDonald's election proved that the Birch program works.

On September 1, 1983, Congressman McDonald was aboard KAL Flight 007 en route to Seoul where he was to speak at an anti-Communist conference. As the Korean Airlines Boeing 747 crossed the southern tip of Sakhalin Island, Soviet jet fighters intercepted the flight. Firing air-to-air missiles, they brought down the big plane. It is very possible that the attack was motivated by the presence on board of

Congressman McDonald, the most ardent and effective Soviet opponent and critic in the U.S. Congress.

A Great Novelist

Her name was recognized worldwide. A vast readership ensured that each of her novels topped the best-seller lists. Her staunch and principled conservatism made her a natural fit for The John Birch Society. And for many years novelist Taylor Caldwell supported and advanced the program of the Society by, among other things, writing numerous, compelling articles for the JBS-affiliated publications *American Opinion* and *The Review of the News* (predecessors of THE NEW AMERICAN).

As a novelist, her brilliance was unsurpassed. Choosing as her subjects important people and periods from history, she transported her vast audience to the crucial events of the past and thereby provided her readers with the vital historical awareness and perspective that our anemic public education system fails to provide. Among her greatest works was



Taylor Caldwell

the best-seller *A Pillar of Iron*, a stunning re-creation of Rome and the life of its greatest statesman, Marcus Tullius Cicero. This novel is "the greatest historical novel in American literature," said the incomparable poet and scholar E. Merrill Root. "To read this amazing re-creation of Rome, this tremendous novel of Cicero," Root remarked, "is an experience never to be forgotten. It is a masterpiece of comprehensive scholarship and an art that is Vergilian. And it reveals, without propaganda, the terrible parallels between the Republic of Rome and our Republic."

Despite the river of remarkable novels flowing from her pen, Caldwell nevertheless found time and energy to become one of the world's greatest essayists as well. In the pages of *American Opinion* and *The Review of the News* she pointedly skewered liberals, inculcated moral truths, taught important lessons, and did so with a wit that never failed to amuse.

Taylor Caldwell was long a member of The John Birch Society, working actively, along with other Birch members, to preserve America and the natural rights and liberties of man. In two of her later novels, *Captains and the Kings* and *Ceremony of the Innocent*, she warned against a conspiracy of powerful elitists seeking to destroy America from within. Like Cicero so long before in Rome, Taylor Caldwell worked to the last to save a republic she loved. ■



Lawrence P. McDonald

A Better World

Founder Robert Welch believed the combination of less government and more responsibility would bring about a better world — materially, politically, and spiritually.

by William Norman Grigg

As he inaugurated The John Birch Society during its two-day founding meeting in 1958, Robert Welch sagely warned: “We can never win ... unless both leadership and following have a positive dream which is more important as a hope than the negative nightmare is as a fear; unless the promise of what we can build supplies more motivation than the terror of what we must destroy; and unless this faith in the future is based on a deeper faith in eternal truths.”

In the struggle to preserve freedom, graphic descriptions of past and ongoing atrocities committed by the Total State have their place, as a warning of what awaits if we lose. But the freedom fight is not merely an effort to prevent the worst that can happen; it must also be an active struggle to achieve the best that we can imagine. This is why, for those who truly understand and cherish freedom, hope is an even stronger motivation than fear.

John Adams displayed an understanding of this principle in a letter to his wife Abigail. Writing after the War for Independence, but before the constitutional foundations of our republic had been firmly established, Adams observed: “I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons must study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry and porcelain.”

Founders vs. Conspiracy

The purpose of politics, Adams understood, was to keep government in its properly subordinate role, thereby leaving people free to build a better and more civilized world. And, like the other leading Founding Fathers, Adams recognized that the liberties he cherished were threatened by a



The achievable dream: Since its founding, The John Birch Society has aspired not merely to arrest our decline into tyranny, but to help build a better, freer world.

conspiracy of evil men lustung to control government to enrich themselves at the expense of human liberty.

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Harvard historian Bernard J. Bailyn wrote of the Founders: “They saw about them, with increasing clarity, not merely mistaken, or even evil, policies violating the principles upon which freedom rested, but what appeared to be evidence of nothing less than a deliberate assault launched surreptitiously by plotters against liberty both in England and America.”

In 1774, as the widespread sentiment favoring American independence began to coalesce, Adams declared that “the conspiracy was first regularly formed and begun to be executed in 1763 or 4...” To defeat that conspiracy, it was necessary for Americans to join in an organized, principled effort to expose it and defeat it. But it was not enough to tabulate the offenses

wrought by the British Crown, or to offer gruesome (and plausible) warnings of the fate that would befall Americans were they to lose their bid for independence.

Adams, Jefferson, Washington, Madison, and others of their generation offered a vision of a better world. The Founders aspired to build a nation in which government would be limited to its proper role of protecting rights and property, thereby creating conditions in which freedom would flourish, innovation and creativity would be unleashed, and human beings would be able to develop their God-given talents to the benefit of all.

In terms of character, values, and ideals, Robert Welch was a blessed throwback to our Founding era. “I want for our country enough laws to restrain me from injuring others, so that these laws will also restrain others from injuring me,” he declared during a 1964 debate with socialist leader Norman Thomas. “I want enough govern-

The freedom fight is not merely an effort to prevent the worst that can happen; it must also be an active struggle to achieve the best that we can imagine.

ment, with enough constitutional safeguards, so that this necessary minimum of laws will be applied equitably to everybody, and will be binding on the rulers as well as those ruled.”

Building a better world, Mr. Welch declared at the Society’s founding meeting, inescapably means reducing the size and power of government. From the Society’s beginnings its motto has called for “less government, more responsibility, and a better world.” Beginning in 1966, this motto was embellished by explicitly recognizing a point implicit therein: “Less government, more responsibility, and — with God’s help — a better world.” As Mr. Welch pointed out in 1961, the JBS motto starkly contradicts the collectivist Conspiracy’s vision of “total government, an absence of all personal responsibility, and a completely amoral world....”

Morality and Liberty

The effort to preserve traditional morality has always been central to the program of The John Birch Society, and from the beginning the Society has earnestly sought — and abundantly received — the participation of patriotic individuals from many religious backgrounds. The Society provides them the organized means to work together in the freedom fight, in defense of all they hold dear including their religious convictions, without in any way compromising or diluting those convictions. “The whole key to our working together as one body, for those things which we do all believe in, is not compromise but tolerance,” Robert Welch noted in 1965.

“We seek no doctrinal union ... [but rather] simple cooperation and mutual support, between men and women of good will and conscience, in forwarding those

moral purposes which are held in common by them all,” wrote Mr. Welch in 1961. “We begin our cooperation with a belief in absolutes, and an eschewal of relativity, as the foundation for morality.”

If morality is “relative,” how can individual rights be considered as “self-evident,” God-given endowments? In the absence of absolutes, what can restrain human beings from injuring each other,



Library of Congress

Working for posterity: In a letter to his wife Abigail, John Adams explained that he and his fellow Founders “stud[ied] politics and war” so that their children and grandchildren could be free to expand their knowledge and develop God-given talents. The JBS pursues this same noble vision.

apart from the brute force of the state? And with the state able to define its own role, what would limit its power?

“As there is a degree of depravity in mankind which requires a certain degree of circumspection and distrust, so there are other qualities in human nature which justify a certain portion of esteem and confidence,” wrote James Madison in *The Federalist*, No. 55. “Republican government

presupposes the existence of these qualities in a higher degree than any other form.”

Preserving those divinely instilled qualities essential to freedom has always been, and always shall be, a central purpose of The John Birch Society. In the December 1970 issue of the JBS *Bulletin*, Mr. Welch summarized the Society’s moral perspective in a list of 20 key principles he called “The John Birch Resolutions.” The list began, appropriately, with the Golden Rule, and other key tenets of the biblical moral worldview:

- “I shall always do unto others as I would have them do unto me.”
- “I shall always be truthful.”
- “I will neither kill nor injure another human being, except in such circumstances that it is morally justifiable to do so.”
- “I shall oppose, in every practicable way that I can, the widespread use or legalization of abortion, or of euthanasia.... For abortion, in plain language, is simply murder....”
- “I shall be a good patriot of my country.”
- “I shall always participate in charity for the needy, to the full extent that my resources and my other responsibilities will permit....”
- “I shall not yield to any of the specific forms of immorality which the enemies of God and man are now trying to get widely practiced and accepted....”

Were these principles generally practiced today, government would have relatively little to do — and the amoral Conspiracy for global control described by Mr. Welch would find little if any social traction.

Too many Americans, anesthetized by consumer comforts and the illusion of endless material prosperity, assess their situation in terms of what they are allowed to keep, rather than by what has been stealthily stolen from them — and by what they and their children stand to lose unless they organize to defeat those responsible for that larceny. The John Birch Society understands the enemy and offers a principle-based plan for defeating it. It is by no means an exaggeration to say that mankind’s hope for a better world largely depends on the success of this epic undertaking. ■