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Why Is Rep. Walter Afraid To Investigate John Birch Society?

IT IS no surprise to note that Rep. Walter, chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, has rejected a request from Rep. Henry Reuss of Milwaukee to investigate the John Birch Society.

Rep. Walter isn't going to investigate a group which has been a staunch pillar of support for the wretched work of the Committee he heads.

The HUAC chairman can't see anything un-American about a secret society headed by a man who believes that democracy is a "perennial fraud" or that ex-President Eisenhower is a Communist.

His attitude is further evidence that the chief test of un-Americanism for HUAC is whether one is for or against the Committee.

J. EDGAR HOOVER, who praised the late Sen. McCarthy as a great American and more recently intervened in an election to save one of McCarthy's supporters—Sen. Mundt of South Dakota—has been careful not to say anything critical of the Birch cult. Sen. Milton Young (R-N. D.), who has been attacked by the cult, demanded a statement from Hoover as to whether he endorsed the group or its activities. It has been reported.

He emphatically denied the report, but he significantly refrained from saying anything critical of the group's beliefs and activities.

Sen. Eastland (D-Miss.), who heads the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, says he is "happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization." Eastland, of course, would be greatly in sympathy with the cult's number one aim of impeaching Chief Justice Warren of the U. S. Supreme Court.

WHY should this group be protected? If it is a "patriotic" organization, as Sen. Eastland says, it may have some information about ex-President Eisenhower and his brother Milton that should be made known to the public. If the Central Intelligence Agency is headed by a Communist, the public should know about it.

Surely, these people who support HUAC so passionately cannot be utterly without responsibility. Among its members are three former heads of the National Association of Manufacturers, two of them prominent Republicans from Wisconsin—William Grede, Milwaukee industrialist, and Cola Parker of

Neenah.

Another member is T. Coleman Andrews, former head of the Internal Revenue Service under President Eisenhower and a candidate for president on the splinter group ticket in 1956. Another, Spruille Braden, is former ambassador to Argentina.

When men like this give their names to a movement which peddles the doctrine that a president of the United States for two terms is a Communist they ought to be allowed to explain what they are talking about and to be questioned concerning it.

Let them go under oath and prove their charges.

What is Walter afraid of?