

# Rightists Threaten "Silence of Fear"

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By Marquis Childs

HOW DANGEROUS to the well-being of this Nation and to America's position as leader of the free world are the radicals of the right?

This is a question being asked here seriously today as these radicals increasingly resort to the tactics of the Communists and the crypto-Communists of the 'thirties. They practice character assassination without regard for the truth. They spread fear, hatred and suspicion. They advocate infiltration of nonpolitical organizations such as the Parent-Teachers Association and the taking over of those organizations.

In some respects these radicals on the extreme right more nearly resemble the fanatical subverters of Germany and Italy who brought nazism and fascism into being. They are often allied with the White Citizens Councils, identifying integration with communism. And at the extreme end of the spectrum they are openly anti-Semitic, often referring in propaganda leaflets to the "Jewish-Communist conspiracy."

A few years ago this would have been dismissed as merely another manifestation of what Theodore Roosevelt so aptly called the lunatic fringe—this time on the right rather than the left. But with the rise of the John Birch Society and its intrusion into politics that is not so easy to do. Founded by Robert Welch, a former Massachusetts candy manufacturer, the Birch society now claims nearly a hundred thousand members with chapters in most states.

WELCH'S secretly circulated book, *The Politician*—now reportedly withdrawn because it alarmed some members—has been compared to *Mein Kampf* if only in the Hitlerian view that the greater the lie the more likely that simple minds will fall victim to it. He calls every President beginning with Franklin Roosevelt a Communist. Of the Eisenhower brothers he writes:

"While I, too, think that Milton Eisenhower is a Communist and has been for 30 years, this opinion is based largely on general circumstances of his conduct.

"But my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy is based on an accumulation of detailed evidence, so extensive and so palpable that it seems to put this conviction beyond any reasonable doubt."

Both the late John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, are called Communists, with the latter ranking next to former President Eisenhower in his power of concealment. A signed editorial following a series of articles revealing the activities of the John Birch Society in one of the most conservative newspapers in the country concluded:

ONE of the recent political targets of the organization was Sen. Milton Young, Republican of North Dakota. Members of the four Birch societies in Bismarck, the state capital, were pushing in the legislature a proposal for a constitutional convention to act on an amendment abolishing the Federal income tax, liquidating 700 Government agencies and greatly restricting the Government's treaty-making power.

The House had already approved the proposal when Senator Young sent a telegram urging the Senate to defeat it and pointing out that it would mean killing the Garrison dam irrigation diversion project in North Dakota. Thereupon the Birchists came down on Young with their letter-writing and telephone technique seeking to put the Communist label on one whose record has on the whole been conservative.

Sen. Thomas Kuchel of California, a moderate Republican, has also been under fire. One of the main goals of the Birch letter-writing blitz is to bring about the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren who was Kuchel's sponsor in politics. Asked about this at a press conference, he called it a "contemptible and vicious thing" to suggest the impeachment of "one of the great men of our time."

Birch Society members have used their pressure techniques to force the showing of the House Un-American Activities film, *Operation Abolition*. And they have denounced as Communists anyone questioning its accuracy or daring to suggest that the committee may have exceeded its rights.

For popular officeholders such as Kuchel and Young this is perhaps no more than a nuisance, even though they are both up for reelection next year. But for citizens—professors, clergymen and others—with a conviction of their right to speak critical and unpopular views, it can mean community distrust, a small business harmed or even a job lost. The silence of fear is the alternate penalty the radicals of the right try to impose.