

Welch Asks Senate For Investigation Of J. Birch Society

Section — Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, sent a telegram to the Senate Internal Security subcommittee Saturday asking for an official investigation of his organization.

Welch in a telegram to Sen. James O. Eastland, chairman of the subcommittee, pledged that members would testify openly and "unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

In Washington, Eastland said he had received Welch's telegram and would submit his request for an investigation to a vote of the subcommittee at its next meeting. The senator said that because of the Easter recess of Congress he did not know when the subcommittee would next meet but that he would call a meeting "as quickly as I can."

The request for an investigation came after the justice department reported in Washington that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy was concerned about the ultra-conservative John Birch Society. First Victim

The society is named for an American missionary killed by the Chinese Communists shortly after the end of World War II. Founders of the society regard him as the first victim of the cold war.

Earlier yesterday, Welch had no comment on criticism of his group and demands for an investigation. But this afternoon, a secretary who declined to answer any questions, telephoned United Press International to announce that Welch had asked for an investigation, "because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact and many of which are sheer fabrications."

"As many of our members as your committee may wish will gladly testify about the background, methods, purposes and specific activities of the society," Welch told Eastland. "And we repeat our assurance made recently to the chairman of a committee in California that, unlike our Communist enemies, none of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment."

Welch, a candy manufacturer, repeated an earlier statement that "the John Birch Society is not a secret society."

"All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase," he said. "The John Birch Society is a group of men and women of good character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals and excellent standing in their respective communities."

"The society has broken no law, and violated no moral principles. Our only crime is fighting Communism, and that we intend to continue until our side wins."

Welch told Eastland he did not expect the Senate subcommittee to accept his statements without "careful investigation." He added that he would appreciate the opportunity to give testimony fully substantiating his statements and assured Eastland that he and other members of the John Birch Society would answer all questions put to them.

Seattle — A three-alarm fire which swept through four buildings in the heart of the University of Washington campus was brought under control early Saturday.

No official estimate of the damages was immediately available, but unofficial guesses put the loss at several hundred thousand dollars.

The blaze destroyed the Air Science building, originally built in 1909, and three shops immediately adjacent. Firemen said the fire broke out about 11:30 p.m. Friday in a paint shop.

Portland — Police Saturday arrested a wounded youth charged with beating an off-duty police officer and his brother.

Donald E. Short, Jr., was being held in lieu of \$3,000 bail after he was captured at a friend's house. He was charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Short and three juveniles, two of them his brothers, were accused of attacking Policeman Frank D. Gilbert, 27, and his brother, John, 32.



STANDS GUARD—A secret service agent (left) stands guard as President Kennedy and Secretary of State Dean Rusk confer at the President's Palm Beach home Saturday. Extra security precautions have been taken in the wake of threats on the President's life by pro-Castro Cubans. —(UPI Telephoto)

Cubans Threaten Kennedy's Life

Palm Beach, Fla. — Federal authorities sought Saturday to evaluate the gravity of a reported threat by pro-Castro Cubans to assassinate President Kennedy and his family, possibly at church on Easter.

An undetermined number of nearby Cubans were under secret surveillance by federal and area police. The objects of a many-sided investigation included at least one man and woman, plus two other associates.

Through a series of tips the United States Secret Service learned more than a week ago of an ugly, perhaps emotionally voiced threat to "wipe out" the President's family or kidnap his 3-year-old daughter, Caroline.

The Secret Service, following long-established procedure, swung into action immediately to track down the threat story since it came from this area — Palm Beach and West Palm Beach — where the Kennedys are spending the Easter week end at the home of the President's father, former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy.

White House Press Secretary Pierre Salinger cautioned newsmen against sensationalizing the story, broken first by United Press International early Friday afternoon.

The President and his wife were unaware of the threats against them until the news reached the general public.

Party War Continues

Salem — Proponents of stronger political party organizations in Oregon won a skirmish and lost a battle Friday, and the factional war went on.

It happened when the house, after several hours of close parliamentary wrestling, passed one bill to give organized party members more power and then passed another to chop away some powers the parties now have.

Rep. Beulah Hand rallied stronger-party supporters to revive and pass a bill that would give party conventions the new job of selecting national committee officers. These now are elected by the voters.

The bill, defeated earlier, still by without any spare votes. It now faces action by the Senate.

Right on the heels of this action, however, the house gave 31-28 approval to a bill to tighten the reins on party activity by preventing state conventions from endorsing

primary candidates or forcing platforms on party adherents. Since this bill already has passed the Senate, it was a clearcut victory for backers like Senate President Harry Bolvin and Sen. Walter Pearson, who currently are at odds with state Democratic party officers and want to clip the party wings a little.

Supporters of the house measure maneuvered to forestall action on the senate bill, in an effort to trade for senate support of the house bill. This failed when the house narrowly voted down a move to send the senate bill back to committee.

It made senate approval of the house bill extremely uncertain.

At immediate issue is a severe Democratic party split that flared some months ago when just under half the senate's Democrats bolted party unit rule to join with Republicans in electing Bolvin president.

Way Sought To Retain Park Beauty

Washington — Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall said Saturday a way will be found to make sure that the ever-increasing number of visitors to national parks does not spoil the parks' natural beauty.

He said a vastly expanded outdoor recreation program would help reduce the pressure on the park system.

"The easing of the visitor flood at the national park gates is absolutely essential in solving the problem of passing on the national park system unimpaired to future generations," Udall said.

He made the remarks in a memo to Conrad L. Wirth, director of the National Park Service, in commenting on a series of critical articles in the Atlantic Monthly.

"Personally," Udall wrote, "I am a strong believer in wilderness preservation and you can depend on me to scrutinize all programs and activities of the National Park Service with this viewpoint clearly in mind."

"On the other hand, I feel very strongly that the people do have a right to visit their parks."

Magazine articles contended the Park Service was jeopardizing the natural beauties of the parks by constructing roads, visitor centers and other facilities to handle a mounting number of tourists.

Station K-BOY Sundays—9:45 A.M.



Thornton Objects To Tidelands Bill

Salem — Atty. Gen. Robert V. Thornton said Saturday that the tidelands oil exploration legislation approved by a legislative committee Friday could ruin Oregon's scenic coast.

He listed eight major objections involving two of the three bills okayed by the House's natural resources committee. The bills are due for floor action next Thursday.

Most of the objections involve one of the bills, which is the key measure.

Rep. Clinton F. Haight Jr. (D-Baker), immediately labeled Thornton's charge as "just not true."

Haight said "if all his objections were written in I wouldn't attract anyone to Oregon to explore. This has been the experience in Washington state."

Thornton said "it's primarily a matter of omission. The bill lacks important safeguards for the state."

The package would allow the state to lease its 800,000-acre tidelands for oil and gas exploration by private companies.

The committee sent all three bills out with "do pass" recommendations. The vote was 7-1 with Rep. Juanita Orr (D-Lake Grove), dissenting.

Rep. Sidney Saxetti (R-Grants Pass), was absent.

Howard Prairie Lake Opens Early

Howard Prairie lake will open April 18 and 19 to allow campers to locate their camp a week before fishing season opens. Conservationists and Johnson announced to

"We have assigned our personnel to be on duty April 18 to assist campers in getting located and ready for the big day," Johnston said. "We have received many questions on whether this would be possible."

"We feel that by opening a week early much of the traffic congestion can be alleviated. No overnight camping fees will be charged those families who do not remain in camp during the week prior to opening," Johnston explained.

Area Set Aside

One complete camp ground area has been set aside to take care of opening day advance camping registrations, the concessionaire said. About 75 camping spots are still open. When this area is filled by registration then all other camp spots will be on a first come basis.

"Fishing boat rental registrations have been coming in steadily and we will soon be booked out for the two-day opening. There are overnight trailer cabin accommodations and fishing boat rentals available for the days following the opening, but these, too, are being taken up by advance registrations," Johnston noted.

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FBI Agents Arrest One of Top Ten

Lubbock, Tex. — (UPI) — Kenneth Eugene Cindie, 46, one of the nation's 10 most wanted criminals, was captured by the FBI Saturday near the Texas-New Mexico border on a tip from a farmer who saw Cindie's picture on television.

The desperado, arrested on a federal warrant charging unlawful interstate flight to avoid prosecution for armed robbery at Wichita, Kan., previously had been arrested three times by Texas and Oklahoma authorities, but released before it was learned he was one of the nation's 10 most-wanted criminals.

Cindie was arrested yesterday by special agents of the FBI and local officers on a remote West Texas ranch southwest of Lubbock, near the New Mexico state border. He surrendered without a struggle.

Federal Agents Nab Narcotic Suspect

Washington — Federal agents pounced on Cueball Irby at Washington National Airport Friday night and said they found \$50,000 worth of heroin wrapped in cellophane stuck in his pockets.

The suspect, whose real name was James Campy Irby, 36, was taken to nearby Alexandria, Va., and arraigned. Bail was set at \$25,000.

U. S. Attorney Harvey Bernard Cohen said the haul, biggest here in five years by federal agents, was of a continuing drive to stem the flow of narcotics into the United States from overseas.

Youth Charged With Beating Policeman

Portland — Police Saturday arrested a wounded youth charged with beating an off-duty police officer and his brother.



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