

## Resolution Asks Investigation of Birch Society

Washington—Rep. Edgar W. Hiestand (R-Calif.) has introduced a resolution to create a special House committee to investigate the John Birch Society and what he called a "smear campaign" against it.

Hiestand is one of two House members who have identified themselves as members of the ultra-conservative group. He cited as evidence of the alleged smear the Army's action in relieving a general who was accused of using the society's name in an indoctrination course for his troops.

Since when is it procedure to relieve a military officer of his command for distributing the information of a patriotic society? he demanded in remarks prepared for the House. "Since when is it wrong to advance the cause of Americanism?"

**Special Committee**  
Hiestand's resolution, if approved by the House, would create a special seven-member committee to investigate the society. He said the society's founder, Robert Welch, has asked for an investigation and that he himself, as a society member, would welcome it.

"It appears the only way to ferret out the facts from the maze of distorted claims," he said.

The Army earlier this week relieved Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker of his command of the 24th Infantry Division in Germany pending investigation of reports that he circulated John Birch Society materials and also that he criticized some public figures as leftist.

"Undoubtedly this move was made as a result of vicious attacks on the society here in this country," Hiestand said. He cited the Army action as evidence of "how far this deplorable smear campaign is advancing."

## Photosynthesis Mystery Nearing Complex Solution

Atlantic City, N.J.—(Science Service)—A significant step toward unraveling the intricate chemistry of photosynthesis may have been taken.

Dr. Andrew A. Benson of Pennsylvania State University told scientists at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology that a substance resembling a common household detergent may hold the key to how sulfur is used in photosynthesis.

Photosynthesis is the process by which the green leaves of plants remove carbon dioxide from the air and convert it to growth material and to free oxygen. The entire animal world depends on this process for the continuation of life, for the production of all the food we eat and the oxygen in the air we breathe.

"For almost three years, we refused to believe that a plant could produce this kind of compound," Dr. Benson said. "But experimental evidence mounted and recently pure crystals of the sulfur compound have been isolated from alfalfa and spinach leaf extracts."

**Sulfosugar**  
Dr. Benson said the compound—a sulfonic acid derivative called a sulfosugar—was found in the portion of the leaf which contains chlorophyll, the material that somehow converts the energy of sunlight into biochemical energy.

Detergent molecules consist of two functional parts: one end that is soluble in water, the other end soluble in oil. The cleansing action lies in the solubility of grease in the oil portion, both of which are carried away by the flow of water. Thus, clean clothes.

Mr. Benson thinks the compound discovered in his laboratory might work the same way. The two ends in combination "are able to dislodge and transport many substances in a liquid medium."

Because photosynthesis involves the reactions of multiple water-soluble and oil-soluble substances, the sulfosugar molecules may act as shuttles, directing other substances to parts of the plant cell where their particular aspect of photosynthesis occurs.

The discovery of this sulfosugar seems to provide much of the answer to how sulfur is used in photosynthesis. For years, the role of this atom puzzled photosynthesis researchers.

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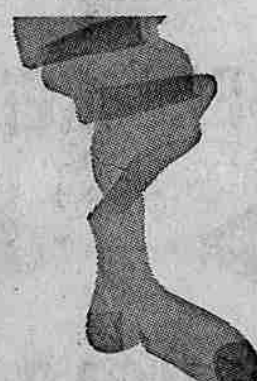
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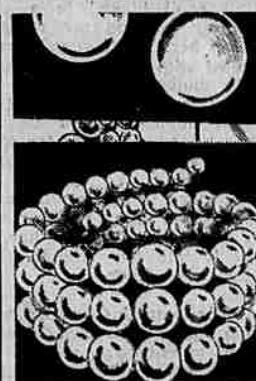


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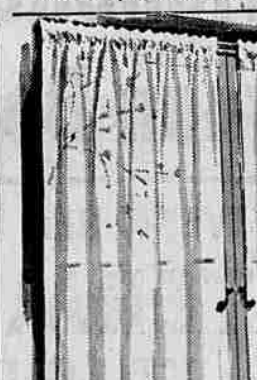


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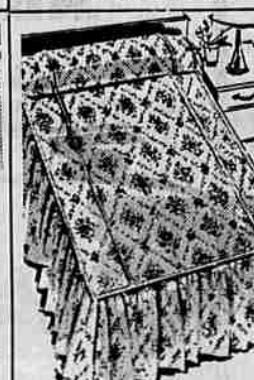


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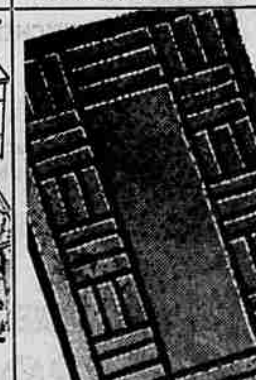


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