

# Publicity Dies Down, But John Birchers Continue To Thrive

**Editor's Note:** A little more than a year has passed since the John Birch Society came into national prominence. The following dispatch reports how the society and its members have fared in that time.

By **FREDRICK H. TREESH**  
United Press International  
In California's recent primary election, Dr. Max Rafferty, an educator with conservative views and heavy support from the John Birch Society, polled more than 600,000 votes to force a runoff for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In Texas, resigned Gen. Edwin A. Walker, a Birch Society member and outspoken foe of an alleged Communist "apparatus" in the federal government, ran sixth and last in the Democratic gubernatorial race. But he polled more than 138,000 votes.

Two California Republican Congressmen, members of the Birch group, won renomination by heavy margins and a third society member won the nomination in a new, recently reapportioned congressional district.

Monday night, in a colonial-style, broad-lawned hotel in Garden City, N. Y., a crowd of 1,500 heard a speech by Robert Welch, founder and leader of the Birch

movement. The meeting, arranged by a representative from the Birch Society's Belmont, Mass., Headquarters, was "a sellout."

**Much Debated**  
In the months since the Birch Society became publicly known, it has been much debated in the press, in Congress and by persons of all political attitudes across the land. No small amount of the discussion has been within the ranks of the conservative movement itself.

This section of the debate probably has been centered more around the society's founder and leader—Welch—than about its principles. The National Review, edited by William F. Buckley Jr., a leading spokesman of the conservative movement, devoted a recent editorial to "the question of Robert Welch."

The National Review editorial concluded:  
"Mr. Welch, for all his good intentions, threatens to divert militant conservative action to irrelevance and ineffectuality. There are, as we say, great things that need doing, the winning of a national election, the re-educating of governing classes."

**Can Do Much**  
"The John Birch Society chapters can do much to forward these aims but only as they dissipate the fog of confusion that issues from Mr.

Welch's smoking typewriter. Mr. Welch has revived it many men the spirit of patriotism, and the same spirit now calls for the rejecting, out of love of truth and country, his false counsels."

The editorial drew laudatory letters from two of the most highly placed conservatives in government, Sens. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and John G. Tower, R-Tex. Goldwater implored Welch to resign as Birch Society leader.

"We cannot allow the emblem of irresponsibility to be attached to the conservative banner," Goldwater said in his letter to the National Review.

In California, where the Birch Society is the strongest, Democratic Attorney General Stanley Mosk drafted a 15-page report accuses the Birch movement, especially Welch, of employing the tactics of the Communist conspiracy it is dedicated to oppose.

Perhaps the most spectacular event involving, at least indirectly, the Birch Society was Gen. Walker's relief from command of the Army's 24th Infantry division in Germany for exceeding his authority in politically indoctrinating his troops. The Army's report on the Walker case, made available to a Congressional Committee last September, said the General was a Birch Society member and his orientation program and the Birch

programs were "remarkably identical."

Gen. Walker, appearing before a Senate Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee last April, charged that high ranking government officials are members of a "hidden control apparatus" that was bending the Army and organs of the U. S. government to the will of the Communist conspiracy.

**Plans To Run**  
After his resignation from the Army was accepted last Nov. 4, Walker announced plans to run for the Democratic nomination for governor in Texas. The ex-General pitched his campaign on the imminent danger of Communism and the national drift toward Socialism. Polling 138,386 votes, Walker finished last in a field of six. John B. Connally, formerly President Kennedy's Secretary of the Navy, outpolled Walker nearly 4 to 1 in the first pri-



**TESTIFIES**—Felix E. Wormser, an assistant secretary of Interior in the Eisenhower administration, is shown as he fore the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on stockpiled in Washington before the government stockpiling of lead and zinc was tailored at least in part to support the domestic price. (UPI)

mary and won the nomination in a subsequent runoff against Don Yarborough.

The only other Birch Society member running in the Texas election, David Valkus, an automotive company clerk, lost in a bid for the Dallas schoolboard.

Political in-fighting directly involving the John Birch Society was the most pronounced in California's Republican State Convention meeting in Berkeley March 4. The assembly endorsed Richard M. Nixon for the gubernatorial nomination and Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel for re-election. Both are relatively middle of the road Republicans.

**Construction Costs Less Than Accidents**  
New York—(UPI)—The nation spent a total of \$6.7 billion on highway construction during 1961, but the cost of traffic accidents was even higher. The economic loss from motor vehicle accidents amounted to \$6.8 billion, according to a survey by C.I.T. Corp., a major industrial and highway financing firm. The survey defined accident costs as loss of wages for those killed and injured, reduced earning power because of disabilities, medical and hospital expenses, property damage and insurance.

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**Did Not Wilt**  
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tion list to its magazine, American Opinion.

Rep. Rousselot, who believes he won in California because of his conservative voting record, said this on the state of the society:  
"The publicity generally has improved in the last six months in the sense that there is more a search for the facts, although in some areas it is more unfair than before. Growth has continued to accelerate."

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Rep. Hiestand perhaps was even more optimistic about the society.  
"It is growing to beat the band," he said. "It's not monolithic as sometimes charged. It's the greatest bunch of rugged individualists I ever knew. The society comprises a group of patriotic study groups. It is no where near right-wing extremism."

But before making its endorsements, the Assembly passed, after a bitter fight, a resolution condemning the Birch Society's founder, Welch. The resolution, introduced by Nixon himself, described the society as "dictatorial and totalitarian." Nixon's strong position on the society alienated some conservative elements in the party. It made certain a bitter primary on June 5 pitting Nixon against little known State Sen. Joseph Shell, who was backed strongly by the Birch members and other conservative forces.

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## CHRYSTAL MEATS

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**Noodle**  
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Why? Because Brand Name appliance manufacturers have a basic conviction about their products. They believe in them. And they prove it by advertising in magazines, newspapers, on radio and television, car cards and outdoor. In brief: they give you all the facts to make it easier for you to choose a new appliance.

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