

GROUP RESEARCH REPORT

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Right wing gets deeper into politics

Although the statistics of Barry Goldwater's resounding defeat are still clearly in mind, the right-wing extremists and conservatives who rallied to his banner last fall are regrouping around more—not less—political action for the campaigns ahead. A few of the 27,000,000 voters who went down with the right-wing hero are talking about a third party but the great majority are staying within the established parties, obviously meaning the Republican Party for the foreseeable future. Moreover, the GOP is treating them kindly and even seeking their talent in important positions.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of the current right-wing approach came with the announcement by Robert Welch that his John Birch Society, bigger than ever, will concentrate on organizing chapters in 325 Congressional Districts and on boosting its budget from \$3.2 million last year to a startling \$12 million for the 1966 Congressional elections. Similar signs have been hoisted by other groups at the same end of the political spectrum, and new groups are being organized for the same purpose.

First among these has been the formation of the American Conservative Union, led by former Congressman Donald Bruce (R-Ind) and surrounded by a large advisory council of well-known right-wing activists and ultraconservatives. Bruce has established a headquarters in Washington, drawn from Goldwater faithful, and set out to raise \$400,000 the first year.

More recently Senator Goldwater himself has announced formation of the Free Society Association, to be headed by his campaign manager, Denison Kitchel. Striking many observers as a competitor to the Bruce group, FSA will feature still different Goldwater "braintrusts" and supporters. It will emphasize "education" not political action, and plans on a budget in excess of \$2 million.

The Americans for Constitutional Action, which has been in the political game since 1958 under the direction of retired Admiral Ben Moreell, has bolstered its board of trustees by the addition of a dozen blue-ribbon names from the right-wing and filled the new post of Executive Director with retired General Thomas Lane, best known in Washington as a Commissioner of the District of Columbia under President Eisenhower. Many of the new names acquired by ACA in preparation for the next political bout are those of reactionary ex-Congressmen, but the organization has also acquired an active Birch Society leader and several other experts of that variety.

The extremists who perennially flirt with a third party to the right of the GOP, led by Kent Courtney of New Orleans, met in Chicago as the Congress of Conservatives and set up a committee to explore a new party. Pressure to jump immediately into third party maneuvers was calmed down by assurances that leaders of the GOP did not want such a move. The committee which will chart the future is headed by Dr. Medford Evans, a Birch Society endorser and staff member of the White Citizens' Councils.

Meanwhile, a group of Goldwater enthusiasts have linked themselves with the GOP under the name of United Republicans of America, with headquarters in the Washington building of **Human Events**. The staff is directed by D. Bruce Evans, who has worked with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and is cooperating with Liberty Lobby, a far-right group. Evans has a small advisory board of Congressmen, ex-Congressmen, novelist Taylor Caldwell (who writes for the John Birch Society) and "Buzz" Lukens, the Chairman of the Young Republican National Federation who helped Goldwater early. Evans signed the first fund-raising letter: "Yours for productive Conservatism."

On the national legislative front, the Administration's proposed relaxation of immigration laws, particularly the national-origin quotas, has drawn fire from many right-wing groups and caused a few new ones to be created.

Another legislative issue—proposed repeal of Section 14B of the Taft-Hartley Act—has given a shot in the arm to the established lobby in the field, the National Right to Work Committee, and caused formation of a similar pressure group, the Committee to Preserve the Taft-Hartley Act. Both groups interlock significantly with each other and with other right-wing organizations.

Other straws in the wind include a boom for movie actor Ronald Reagan to run for Governor of California, repeated booms for Alabama's segregationist Governor George Wallace for Senator against John Sparkman, and continuing activity by the Young Americans for Freedom—the Goldwater cadre.

New book blasts Vice President Humphrey

The latest entry in the radical-right stream of paper-back books is called *That Man From Minnesota* and is a slashing attack on Hubert Humphrey. The cover of the first 25,000 copies had a swastika in the field of an American flag, along with the question: "Will Hubert Humphrey put a swastika on our flag?" Later editions deleted the fascist emblem and the question.

Author of the 128-page job is Richard P. Jennett, a free-lance writer whose work has appeared in the John Birch Society magazine and other far-right publications. Jennett created the "Joyce Press" for the occasion and also runs—with his wife, Joyce—a post office box in Holliston, Mass. called "The Spirit of '76 House" which deals in bibles, pen-shaped tear gas guns and right-wing literature.

Jennett's theme appears on the opening page: "Humphrey has, despite his good intentions, strayed down paths blazed earlier by Fascist and National Socialist (Nazi) dictators Benito Mussolini and Adolph Hitler."

Organization News

- Young Americans for Freedom harassed the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. so effectively that the company gave up plans to sell a \$50 million synthetic rubber plant to Communist Rumania. Sale of the plant had been approved by the U.S. government, but YAF threatened to boycott Firestone products.
- A fund-raising appeal for the Manion Forum among Alabama businessmen has been signed by Governor George Wallace, among others. Two of the other signers, as well as Manion, are Birch Society leaders.
- The American Council of Christian Laymen, run for years by the late Verne P. Kaub of Wisconsin, has been inherited by the American Council of Christian Churches, organized by Dr. Carl McIntire.
- The American Enterprise Institute, which provided several leaders of Barry Goldwater's 1964 braintrust, is under scrutiny of Rep. Wright Patman's Select Committee on Small Business, which has been examining the side operations of tax-exempt foundations. So far, the AEI has refused to give Patman a recent list of contributors. AEI reported expenses of \$421,088 last year to the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt group. Previous reports show support of AEI by some of the wealthiest and most active right-wing organizations and individuals.
- The American Farm Bureau Federation is boasting about the endorsement by Alabama's Governor George C. Wallace of opposition to the Supreme Court's requirement of reapportionment. The Farm Bureau is working so hard to upset the Court ruling that it pictured Wallace on the front cover of its Official News Letter.

Hargis visits Franco and Goldwater

Billy James Hargis, back from a tour of Jerusalem and other countries with his Christian Crusade, reports an hour-long visit with Generalissimo Franco, the Spanish dictator, and "a good visit" with Barry Goldwater while in Madrid. Hargis points out that the former Senator, who visited several countries recently, could have denounced Christian Crusade or other right-wing groups during the campaign, "but he steadfastly refused to criticize his friends."

PERSONALITIES: **Glenn Green**, former Birch Society member at Harding College's National Education Program, has left the National Right to Work Committee to become Director of Industrial Relations for Associated Industries of Arkansas . . . **Gerald L. K. Smith** announces proudly that he sent his chief lieutenant, Opal Tanner White, to Selma, Alabama, during the civil rights march there, and he has other lieutenants working capitol hill in behalf of his Citizens Congressional Committee, specializing this year in beating off changes in immigration quotas . . . Former Congressman **Bruce Alger** (R-Texas) has gone to work in the real estate interests of H. L. Hunt's son-in-law, Al Hill, of Colorado Springs . . . **Dr. Robert Morris**, veteran of the right wing and ex-President of Dallas University, has become head of the University of Plano, Texas, which goes in for treatment of neurologically disabled children, among other things . . . **Dan Smoot** lost his appeal to a U. S. Circuit Court in his effort to drop his libel suit against the Traverse City, Michigan, League of Women Voters, whom he had accused of damaging him . . . **Revalo P. Oliver**,

the Illinois U. classics professor and John Birch Society leader, has admitted that some of the material for his article about President Kennedy's assassination came from **Frank Capell**, publisher of a far-right newsletter, "Herald of Freedom," and a defendant in the alleged criminal conspiracy against Senator Thomas Kuchel . . . **Rev. Carl McIntire**, addressing more than 2,000 people in Washington, praised the "dear Christians in the South" who are showing the rest of the Nation how we ought to stand and fight . . . Senator **Strom Thurmond** (R-S. C.) praised McIntire as a "great American" and got a standing ovation.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS: Citizens for Constructive Action, designed to "sell capitalism," has been formed on the West Coast under the leadership of Walter Knott, California businessman whose right-wing activities would fill a book, with help from such well-known GOP members as Ronald Reagan, William F. Knowland and Joseph C. Shell . . . **The Boys' Clubs of America** have been injected into the American right-wing by Cleveland industrialist Jesse G. Bell, who has paid for a book-length compilation of testimonials on the American heritage which is made up of leading right wingers, plus a sprinkling of liberal spokesmen . . . **Americans for Political Responsibility** is the name given Maj. George Racey Jordan's newest movement, according to a full-page ad in *Freedom Press* . . . And **The Constitution Defense Committee** is the name being used by a new far-right group to recall California's Governor Brown, a movement also being backed by ex-FBI informant Karl Prussion . . . **The National Party of America**, complete with young men in arm bands and uniforms reminiscent of 1930's fascists, has shown up in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington . . . And several other local groups have taken names such as **United Men for Christian Youth** (Knoxville), **Conservative American Party** (Scottsdale), and **National Federation of Conservative Organizations** (Indianapolis).

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