

Disaster Befalls The Birchmen

By Robert E. Segal

In the Massachusetts race to fill the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Paul Tsongas, the cloth of denials that the John Birch Society nurtures anti-Semitism has come unraveled.

Old John Birch Society watchers were not surprised.

The explosion campaign scenario runs thus: After Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor John F. Kerry, the Democratic candidate, had made an issue of his opponent's flirtation with the radical organization founded by Belmont's Robert Welch, the Society's public relations director, John McManus, called a media conference to attempt "to disapprove Kerry's description of the organization as an anti-Semitic one."

Both Vietnam War Veteran Kerry and his Republican opponent, Ray Shamie, were shocked by the outcome. The dynamite was detonated by Major General George S. Patton Jr., son of the World War II bearer of that name. In the course of the conference, Patton, Honorary Chairman of Veterans For Ray Shamie, excoriated Kerry with these words: "He (Kerry) gave aid and comfort to the enemy and probably caused some of my guys to get killed; and there's no soap that'll ever wash that blood off his hands."

Kerry, who, as a naval commander in Vietnam in the late 1960s had emerged from the conflict with a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts, had the courage to found Vietnam Veterans Against the War in which Patton had a major role.

Shamie, to his credit, condemned Patton's "irresponsible and unsubstantiated attack" on Kerry and, with relief, accepted Patton's offer to resign his post in the election campaign.

But McManus, shifting the conference agenda without offering rebuttal to Kerry's claim that the Birch Society had nurtured anti-Semitism, pounded upon Kerry as "a Communist sympathizer guilty of near-treasonous activity" during the Vietnam protest years. In a specious effort to prove his charge by using the old guild-by-association device reminiscent of the Joe McCarthy era, he said, The Daily Worker had reported favorably on Kerry's efforts as a post-serviceman's foe of the war. And did not Angela Davis and Ramsey Clark share Kerry's anti-American and pro-Communist view? He did not mention General James M. Gavin, that D-Day invasion commander of the 82nd Airborne Division has made it clear he feels the same about our venture into Vietnam as Kerry does and has backed the Kerry run for the Senate.

Well, inasmuch as the Birch Society's Mr. McManus flunked the anti-Semitic rebuttal test, let's look at the record:

In 1961 Robert Welch wrote: "A pamphlet, 'America Betrayed,' by Joseph Kamp has served as a guide for running down connections between groups and individuals." Kamp's career as a professional purveyor of anti-Semitic writings was notorious.

Mr. Welch had as the head of his New York chapter Marwin K. Hart. Here are a few gems from Hart's anti-Semitic creeds: "There are no doubt many Nazi spies in this country...Well organized propaganda led us to take in several hundred refugees from Germany." Of a newsreel dealing with the agony of Dachau, he said: "It is obviously designed to keep alive the old war hates...It is part and parcel of the Old Testament vindictiveness of Henry Morgenthau Jr. and Associates."

Mr. Welch urged his buddies to make a Christmas gift of the latter-day "American Mercury," published by Russell Maguire, whose anti-Semitic views peppered his journal.

"American Opinion," a top Birch magazine, has had as one of its regular correspondents, Eric L. D. Butler, a prominent Australian Jew-hater.

Revalo F. Oliver, Associate Editor of "American Opinion," wrote "It is a lie that Hitler killed six million Jews."

As part of his orientation program for his chapter leaders, Mr. Welch dismissed what he called "the whole anti-Semitic thing" as something created by Communists.

"American Opinion" in 1963 fell for the hoax in which a non-existent "Israel Cohen, a leading Communist in England," was portrayed as the author of "A Racial Program For The 20th Century."

In 1964 "American Opinion" gave the democratic nation of Israel a score of 50 to 70 percent under Communist influence.

And speaking of scores, Mr. Welch himself opined that 95 percent of his coterie were Joe McCarthy admirers.

These are just a few tea leaves from the notebooks of the organization that maintains Dwight Eisenhower "knowingly accepted and abided by Communist orders and consciously served the Communist conspiracy for all his adult life."

Mayor Koch Honored By American ORT Federation



New York Mayor Edward I. Koch accepted the American ORT Federation Community Achievement Award at the AOF Scholarship dinner held in his honor recently at the Vista International Hotel in New York City. Presenting the award were dinner Chairman Arthur Levitt, Jr. (left) Chairman of the Board of the American Stock Exchange and Alvin L. Gray (right), President of the American ORT Federation.

Proceeds of the dinner, which was attended by some 500 people, will be used to establish the Mayor Edward I. Koch ORT Scholarship Fund to aid students at ORT Schools throughout the Jewish world.

Mayor Koch received the American ORT Federation Community Achievement Award, Mr. Gray noted, "in recognition of his outstanding leadership and accomplishments in enhancing the quality of life in New York City."

UJA Reports Gain In Early 1985 Campaign Effort

NEW YORK (WNS) — The 1985 United Jewish Appeal regular campaign, at its third annual Hineni leadership meeting in Washington, announced pledges totaling \$7,638,200, according to UJA chairman Alexander Gross. He said this represented a 14.3 percent increase over contributions made by the same donor a year ago.

The three-day gathering provided an opportunity for the UJA leaders to see the government in operation and to speak directly to Administration officials about their concerns in American Jewish life, and American-Israeli relations.

The gathering was highlighted by meetings with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, Ambassador William Brock, Undersecretary of State Kenneth Dam, and briefing by other high-ranking Administration officials. The meeting included 117 participants from 24 communities. H. Irwin Levy of Palm Beach, Fla., was Hineni chairman.

In what was described as a record-breaking achievement, the UJA's National Young Leadership Cabinet has raised more than \$4.1 million for the 1985 campaign, according to the new Cabinet chairman, Carl Kaplan.

He said that, of that sum, \$3,150,000 was pledged at the Cabinet's 22nd annual retreat in Princeton, N.J. The total included \$2.6 million for the regular campaign -- a 33 percent increase over contributions by the same donors last year -- and \$550,000 in pledges to Project Renewal.

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