

A View From The Right

By: C. William George

I believe it would be most appropriate for me, at this time, to express the concern I share with thousands of other conservatives over the harm that is inflicted upon the American conservative movement by the patent absurdities being pandered to the public as conservative philosophy by the irresponsible group known as the John Birch Society.

Harm results from official Birch Society dogma attributing everything from moral decline to water fluoridation to "the International Communist Conspiracy." The conspiratorial viewpoint is a reduction of the complex interplay of forces in current politics to a simple "good guys-bad guys" proposition, tending to result in an endowment of the Birch Society leadership with divine revelatory powers. The "class struggle" theory of history of the Communists represents the same form of demagoguery.

For example, in the **American Opinion** magazine of July-August,

1966 one may learn to his astonishment that the United States is 60 per cent to 80 per cent Communist and that our allies West Germany (40 per cent to 60 per cent), Britain (60 per cent to 80 per cent) and France (70 per cent to 90 per cent) score similarly high degrees of "Communist infiltration or control," according to the editorial staff of this official Birch Society magazine.

Birch leader Robert Welch's notorious book **The Politician** contains the statement that it is "my firm belief that Dwight Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist Conspiracy... based on detailed evidence so extensive and so palpable that it seems to me to put his conviction beyond any reasonable doubt." In Welch's **Wild Statements** the opinion is expressed that although the Birch Society has "never claimed that Thomas Dodd was a Communist we do claim that his record clearly proves him to be just about the phonies 'anti-Communist' in the United States today.

Reckless, irresponsible statements such as these, with no basis in fact, tend to discredit the conservative movement. The Birch Society is the "whipping boy" of the Left simply because it is so ludicrous that its statements and actions can be used as a broad tar brush with which to smear effective conservatives.