members and who they are..." (Boston Herald, 12-21-61) as of the summer of 1961, The John Birch Society (named for an American officer who was killed shortly after the end of World II, in China, by Chinese Communists) had an estimated membership of 60,000. And the financial take-in from dues, donations and literature sales at that time ran into a respectable 7 figures annually. Dues for men are $24.00 per year, for women, $12.00. One can purchase a life membership for $1,000.00, and The Bookmailer (the literature department) does a thriving business adding some $300,000.00 to the Society's annual funds. According to Alan F. Westin, in Commentary for August, 1961, the annual working fund of the Welch organization totals about $1,600,000. And according to Mr. Welch, himself, in his interview with The Boston Herald, 12-21-61, the weekly payroll for the Society and its monthly magazine, American Opinion, is $12,000.00. Whether or not the Society's membership rolls will grow to the million mark the goal of Mr. Welch remains to be seen and is, to say the least, highly questionable. But there is no question that this latest of America's champions of the dead past is a going concern, if only from a business standpoint.

MR. WELCH'S COMMUNIST MACHINE

To an ex-manufacturer, a dearth of the traditionally-accepted type of Soviet Communist activity in America need be no deterrent. Assuming that government regulation and control of business, welfare, and so forth, is Communism, the manufacture of native Communist conspirators becomes relatively easy. In fact, he must have thought, they don't have to be manufactured but merely relabelled. And so, the last three Presidents of the United States, Eisenhower, Truman and Roosevelt, went through the Welch machinery and came out full-blown Communists or Communist dupes. So did the Dulles brothers. So did Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren and his case is still given special treatment by the followers of the sage of Belmont, with "impeach Warren" bumper stickers appearing on Bircher-owned automobiles throughout the South and Southwest.

And the well-oiled machine grinds on. P. T. A., church and social groups are denounced as subversive; poison-pen letters are despatched and anonymous telephone threats are received by newly manufactured Communists wherever Birchers are active; schools are threatened with bombings; and self-appointed censors operate on library books and school texts. It is pointless to debate the question of whether such tactics are advocated directly and officially from headquarters. Mr. Welch states in a letter to Mr. Otis Chandler, publisher of The Los Angeles Times and an outspoken critic of the John Birch Society, that: "Our members are told repeatedly never to do anything for The John Birch Society that goes against their individual conscience." Which covers a wide territory, indeed!

Mr. Welch has devoted a considerable portion of his Bulletin of April 1, 1961 to the subject of anti-semitism. This is a touchy subject with all broadly-based right-wing movements because of their willingness to embrace the smaller and avowedly anti-semitic groups. The America First Committee, which seemed unable to operate without the support of Coughlin's Social Justice organization and Gerald L. K. Smith's anti-semitic rabble, was continually embarrassed over the problem. The same can be said for the late Senator McCarthy. Despite his close association with Roy Cohen, his strong right arm on his Senate Committee, and with David Schine who aided in the fingering of "Communist" books in U. S. Government libraries, the Senator was accused of anti-semitism. The preponderance of full-time activists of this category among the friends of McCarthy was unmistakeable.

And so it is with Mr. Welch and the John Birch Society. He disavows any such sentiments, brags of his numerous Jewish friends, urges Jews

to join the Society and claims some already as members. But he dare not repudiate his considerable anti-semitic membership. They are loyal anti-Communists, and what's more, they are loyal dues-payers and purchasers of literature. And they can certainly go along with the Society when it tells them "never to do anything that goes against their individual consciences."

"ENLIGHTENED" CAPITALISTS

The John Birch Society is of course living in the past. Their program of promoting "less government" is as out-dated as the horse and buggy. In fact Thomas Jefferson himself was stymied in any desire to fulfill such a wish and had to subscribe to and endorse schemes that called for more and more government. By the mid-20th Century, Isolationism and less government as factors in American politics were all but dead. One after another of the foremost of America's advocates of backwardness fell by the wayside. Senator Taft, after his nomination defeat by the Eisenhower forces, met with the President-elect in the widely publicized "surrender at Morningside Heights" in which the isolationist leader agreed to cooperate with Eisenhower in the furtherance of the existing international policies. There was nothing else he could do. Even Richard Nixon went through an evolution, during his two terms as Vice-President, from a Taft isolationist to a rabid "liberal" and "internationalist" and an advocate of bigger, rather than smaller government.

There is no other way for capitalism to operate in these times than through more and more government controls over society. The Eisenhower administration created the new cabinet post of Health, Welfare and Education, recognizing the need for government intervention in these fields. The Kennedy administration is involved in expanding government even further and extended the post as United Nations Ambassador to cabinet rank, recognizing the utter necessities of a shrunken world. There is no turning back.

And so, one after another of America's foremost leaders are turning on the John Birch Society, some of them who had originally been friendly. Despite the earlier endorsements of Catholic dignitaries such as Cardinal Cushing of Boston and Spellman of New York we now find the Hierarchy speaking out against it, as for example, in its Boston archdiocese organ, The Pilot. Powerful newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times denounce the Society. High government officials, up to the President himself, no longer are willing to ignore the charges or "turn the other cheek" but lash back at this "Stop the world; I want to get off" group.

From a gang of harmless crackpots, the Society has grown into a force which can be no longer ignored by the powers that be. It is alright to be against all income taxes; against the welfare and "protective" activities of the government ("socialism"); against U. S. participation in the United Nations (which, according to Mr. Welch "was designed as the Fifth Communist Internationale"); against foreign aid; against alliances such as NATO and SEATO; against organized labor; against academic freedom; and against fluoridation. It is alright to be against all of these things and anything else that is necessary to the smooth operation of capitalism — until such opposition becomes a nuisance and a source of embarrassment to the national capitalist guardians. Mr. Welch claims, for example, that "Our people working with other anti-Communist groups . . . will have, I think, a quarter-million letters in Washington within the next 10 days." (Boston Herald 12-21-61.) No wonder the guardians in Washington are **ready to fight back!**

Socialists, however, cannot become too excited or take sides in this internecine capitalist warfare. Socialists know that the only defense against either type of thinking is a strong socialist movement and until capitalism is abolished the minor threats of Bircher-type capitalists and the major threats of orthodox capitalism will continue to haunt the world.

HARMO