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If It Walks Like a Duck?

COPYRGHT

Excerpts From California Attorney General's Opinion on John Birch Society

Dear Gov. Brown:

Pursuant to your request of recent date, I am reporting herewith on the John Birch Society.

The cadre of the John Birch Society seems to be formed primarily of wealthy business men, retired military officers and little old ladies in tennis shoes. They are bound together by an obsessive fear of "Communism," a word which they define to include any ideas differing from their own, even though these ideas may differ even more markedly with the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Khrushchev. In response to this fear they are willing to give up a large measure of the freedoms guaranteed them by the United States Constitution in favor of accepting the dictates of their "Founder." They seek, by fair means or foul, to force the rest of us to follow their example. They are pathetic.

The Mirror of Public Opinion

Attorney General Robert Kennedy stated that the Birch Society is "ridiculous, and I don't think anybody should pay much attention to them," and William Mauldin, in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, lampooned the Birch Society with a cartoon entitled, "Malice in Wonderland."

Post-Dispatch, April 2, 1961.

Malice in Wonderland

Robert W. Welch is an uttered candy maker of Belmont, Massachusetts, and a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of [illegible]

[illegible] 1959 [illegible] Pres[illegible] detail[illegible]

[illegible] Eisenhower insisted that the Army proceed with a reduction in strength from 900,000 to 870,000, including the loss of one of the strategic reserve divisions in the United States, even though Congress had voted the funds to maintain the Army with a strength of 900,000. The reduction in Army strength had been delayed on [illegible] Pres[illegible] forced to bring them up to full strength and with all the supporting units needed.

In contrast, and in spite of the crisis, President Eisenhower insisted that the Army proceed with a reduction in strength from 900,000 to 870,000, including the loss of one of the strategic reserve divisions in the United States, even though Congress had voted the funds to maintain the Army with a strength of 900,000. The reduction in Army strength had been delayed on [illegible] Pres[illegible] forced to bring them up to full strength and with all the supporting units needed.

Very few police or military are in evidence. Large numbers are said to have been withdrawn in the past two or three days as though, mission of intimidation accomplished, they could be removed from the city that is now in the whole effectively sealed off from the Western half. This may have been part of deliberate effort to put it at ease and look on what has happened.

But the normality, whether in the East or the Western half, is only on the surface. This strange divided city has been [illegible] by the events of early morning hours of Aug. 13. The [illegible] merely in the protest meet[illegible] a quarter of a million West Berliners gathered before the Town Hall, [illegible] the night before, simply that of the bord[illegible] another—58,000 from East to W[illegible] to their daily jobs.

YOU SENSE when you are here only few hours that it is much deeper than th[illegible]

[illegible] Marxian Methods?

[illegible] formula is another [illegible]

[illegible] Nothing [illegible]

[illegible] Pres[illegible]

[illegible] Nothing [illegible]

[illegible] Pres[illegible]

[illegible] Nothing [illegible]

[illegible] Pres[