

BIRCHITES PUSHING DRIVE IN SUBURBS

Claim Doubled Membership
in Last Four Months

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By MERRILL FOLSOM

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WHITE PLAINS, July 1—

Membership in the John Birch Society has doubled in New York City's suburbs in the last four months, national leaders of the society said here today.

They said it had previously doubled in the few months after last November's election. Included in the tabulations were Westchester, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Southern Connecticut and Northern New Jersey.

The ultraconservative organization has now begun to recruit openly here.

Hitherto, Westchester residents have rarely admitted membership because of possible embarrassments with neighbors and business associates. The society seemed to be operating underground. The goal now is to instill pride in membership.

John H. Roussetot of Arcadia, Calif., national director of public relations for the society and new publisher of its magazine, *American Opinion*, is here to dispel what he calls misunderstandings about national policies of the society.

Tonight he went to a hall at Schrafft's in Eastchester to speak on "The United Nations—Instrument of the International Communist Conspiracy." The meeting was open to anyone willing to pay \$2.

More Than 10' Chapters

Mr. Roussetot, who is 38 years old, appeared boyish with pale blue eyes and neat brown hair as he was interviewed in the new regional headquarters here of the society at 180 East Pond Road. The office is headed by Thomas J. Davis of Stamford, Conn. The region covers Maine to Florida and as far west as Pennsylvania.

Asked how many chapters the society had in Westchester, Mr. Roussetot said "more than 10." Mr. Davis interrupted to say "considerably more," adding that each had about 20 members. The groups generally meet in homes.

Mr. Roussetot said the national membership was approaching 100,000.

The new library of the headquarters here has a hundred different magazines, pamphlets and books for distribution, including "The Politician," a book written by the society's founder, Robert Welch, on Dwight D. Eisenhower. It also had petitions demanding the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Roussetot said suburban chapters would give moral support to local police departments

in disputes concerning integration, narcotics control and juvenile delinquency. He contended the Communists were known to be trying to discredit local police departments. He said civilian review boards in police affairs were an evil sponsored by the Communists.

He said the society would neither endorse nor oppose any political candidates. But he had no kind words for the politics of Representative John V. Lindsay, who is the Republican and Liberal candidate for Mayor of New York.

"I served with John Lindsay in Congress when I was a Representative from California," Mr. Roussetot said. "He is personable, likable and articulate, but his policies promote world Communism, just as 95 per cent of President Johnson's program promotes alien philosophies."

After the meeting in Eastchester tonight, Mr. Roussetot left for speeches in the Boston area and Mr. Davis for meetings in Miami.

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