

BIRCHERS CHART WARREN ATTACK

Welch Tells of Plan for New Drive for Impeachment

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Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., president of the John Birch Society, said today that the right-wing organization would probably mount an intensive, organized national drive to have Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States, impeached.

The society has been fostering an "Impeach Earl Warren" campaign for several years, based on resentment of the liberal trend of United States Supreme Court decisions.

But Mr. Welch said this had been a relatively low-key, academic gesture compared with what is now contemplated.

"Our national field staff of 80 full-time coordinators has not worked on the impeachment campaign at all," he said.

"Under the program we're considering" he said, "starting within the next three or four months they would be put to work on speeches and petitions, along with our 1,100 volunteer section leaders throughout the country—doctors and retired businessmen and people like that."

Impeachment Defined

Impeachment is a formal declaration by the House of Representatives of charges that are then the subject of a trial in the United States Senate.

Mr. Welch, who is here from his headquarters in Belmont, Mass., on a speaking tour, told a news conference at the Statler Hilton Hotel that the stepped-up impeachment idea stemmed primarily from the conservative tide of public opinion reflected in last November's election, rather than from anything new in the Court's trend.

"We were serious about the idea before," he said, "but we didn't feel we had any immediate chance of success. Now I think the chances against our succeeding by, say, 1968, are 2 to 1 or 3 to 1, but no impossible odds by any means."

The Birch leader rejected a suggestion that such a campaign would go beyond the stated "educational" character of the society's activities into the realm of politics.