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Oliver Leaves Birch Society Over Dispute

BY FRANK HUGHES

Dr. Revilo P. Oliver, professor of classics at the University of Illinois, Urbana, and one of the 11 founders of the John Birch Society, yesterday announced he had resigned from the governing council of the conservative, anti-Communist organization and from the society.

Robert Welch, founder and head of the society, reached at his home in Belmont, Mass., told THE TRIBUNE that he would make no comment about Oliver's resignation.

Also Quits as Editor

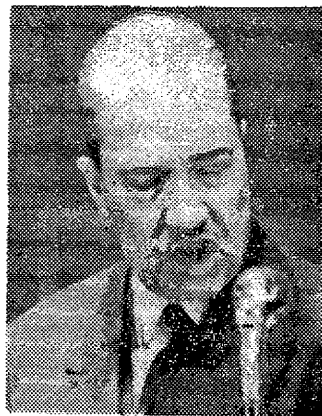
"I have resigned from the council of the John Birch Society [and from the society itself] because I can no longer in conscience remain a member," Oliver said in a formal statement. "I have also resigned as associate editor of American Opinion [organ of the society], and will no longer contribute to that magazine.

"I was one of the 11 men who met with Mr. Robert Welch in Indianapolis on Dec. 9, 1958, when the society was formed. The Mr. Welch who founded the society was a man in whom I had great confidence.

"Since then, however, changes which have taken place internally in the organization and in its policies leave me no alternative but to disassociate myself from it."

Differ on Policies

Altho neither Oliver nor the resignation beyond those in the statement, it is known that there have been sharp differences of opinion between Welch would give reasons for



Dr. Revilo P. Oliver

Oliver and other members of the 24-man John Birch Council on policy matters.

Oliver gave a speech in Boston, Mass., last July 4 at a patriotic rally which caused alarm among some members of the society there.

In public addresses after the assassination of President Kennedy in November, 1963, Oliver declared that the parade route of the Kennedy procession in Dallas was changed at the last minute to bring it in front of the school textbook repository building where Lee Oswald was concealed when he fired the fatal shots at the President.

Quizzed Five Hours

Oliver was questioned for five hours by staff members of the Warren commission in Washington about sources of his information for an article on the assassination printed in American Opinion.

In March, 1964, the board of trustees of the University of Illinois voted to condemn the article which suggested that President Kennedy was assassinated because he was no longer useful to the communist conspiracy against the United States. The board decided against disciplinary action on Oliver, however.