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The Man Who Out-Birched Them All

By CHARLES GAULKIN

When he wrote that President Kennedy was executed by Communists because "he was planning to turn American," Prof. Revilo P. Oliver's associates in the John Birch Society applauded.

When he talked to a right-wing group about racial problems and referred to "bipeds who are to lazy, too stupid, too savage to work for themselves," his listeners cheered. And when he came on with his

show-stopping bit with the mock Jewish accent, they laughed.

But when he suggested in a recent Boston speech that if "all Jews were vaporized at dawn tomorrow, we should have nothing more to worry about, "that was too much even for the chief Bircher, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., who told him so.

Parting of the Ways

As a result, Oliver had parted company with the Birch Soci-

ety today.

The 55-year-old professor of Greek and Latin at the University of Illinois—one of the founders of the Birch Society eight years ago—indicated in his farewell statement that the Welch who leads the society today may not be the real Welch he knew in 1958.

"The Mr. Welch who founded the society was a man in whom I had great confidence," Oliver declared. But changes "in the organization and in its policies"

since then force him to depart, he said.

Welch reportedly had called Oliver to task for his anti-Semitic July 2 speech at the New England Rally for God, Family and Country in Boston. Warning of the dangers of the Jewish conspiracy to Western civilization, Oliver had mentioned "vaporizing" not only the Jews but the Bolsheviks and, for good measure, any remnants of the Illuminati, an anticlerical sect of the late 18th century.

Another issue that was said to have caused friction was Oliver's proposal—endorsed by some other Birchites — that Welch end his one-man rule and share the society's leadership with others.

Oliver, who likes to mix Latin quips and classical references with his phrases about "the Warren gang" and "the Harvard horde," nearly lost his job after his article on the assassination appeared in American Opinion, the Birch magazine.

Called Oswald Red Agent

He charged in the article that Kennedy had fallen behind in the Communist timetable for a takeover of the U. S., and that Lee Harvey Oswald was assigned to kill him after training in "the well-known school for international criminals near Minsk."

Welch praised Oliver's "superb commentary" at the time, but took a more moderate approach, saying that the assassination was no doubt the work of the Communists, but that the Kremlin probably was not directly involved.