

CONSPIRACY

Young radicals, soldiers at a U.S. Army office in Germany, set up a political conspiracy called CUSA. In 1962, three of the Inner Circle posed in civvies: "Security Chief" Larry Jones (at left), Treasurer Norman Baker and Director Larrie Schmidt, 28, who tells what they tried to do.

A PLOT THAT FLOPPED



AT MUNICH, GERMANY, in June, 1962, a tense young noncom typed out the six-page timetable for his plot to take control of politics in his homeland. He was Larrie Schmidt, specialist fourth-class U.S. Army. He had trained a small, disciplined band of soldier-conspirators to follow him stateside and do, he hoped, "whatever is necessary to accomplish our goal."

Schmidt's weapon was CUSA, code for Conservatism-USA, a secret organization he had put together under the noses of the military-security people. In fact, he signed up four zealots inside the Military Police and the Counter Intelligence Corps. His CUSA agents, in constant training for their mission, often used Army machinery for their own ends. When a corporal from U.S. Army, Europe, headquarters beat up a CUSA man, Schmidt claims, "the long arm of CUSA influence reached up to Heidelberg, got him busted and shipped out."

The young radicals reveled in their elaborate scheme. Once, afraid a high officer might investigate them, Schmidt had an aide seduce the officer's secretary. The grateful lady told her CUSA lover all her boss found out: nothing.

So the Munich-made timetable bristled with conspirator confidence. Starting that fall, when Director Schmidt would get his discharge, CUSA's schedule ran through logical-looking steps: Set up secret Conservatism-USA headquarters in Dallas; infiltrate 200 Right-Wing

outfits all over the U.S. and weld them into CUSA; infiltrate nonpolitical groups like the Jaycees; take grass-roots control of both political parties; nominate only true-believer Conservatives for public office. These tall chores would be financed not only by moneyed Rightists, but by CUSA's own business empire-to-be, AMBUS (code for American Businesses, Inc.). Schmidt had faith then, still has, that CUSA could build to the final item on his docket:

"20 Jan 1969: A conservative president is sitting in the White House. Congress is ruled by conservatives. OUR JOB IS DONE. What happens after 20 Jan 1969? Well, frankly, in our position, whatever the hell we want to happen at that time. We aren't thinking too much about then. After all, we'll be in control. . . ."

Schmidt arrived in Dallas on schedule. For a year, he cut quite a gray-flannel figure among Right-Wing groups, from the National Indignation Convention to Young Americans for Freedom and the John Birch Society. He was still going strong right up to the day John F. Kennedy was shot. Schmidt had prepared for the Kennedy visit with a full-page ad to run in the *Dallas Morning News*. You may remember that black-bordered "Welcome" with its hints that the President of the United States was soft on communism. To Schmidt, the ad was a public-relations device to promote himself—and newly arrived CUSA agent Bernard Weissman, who

BY PATRICIA SWANK

CONSPIRACY USA

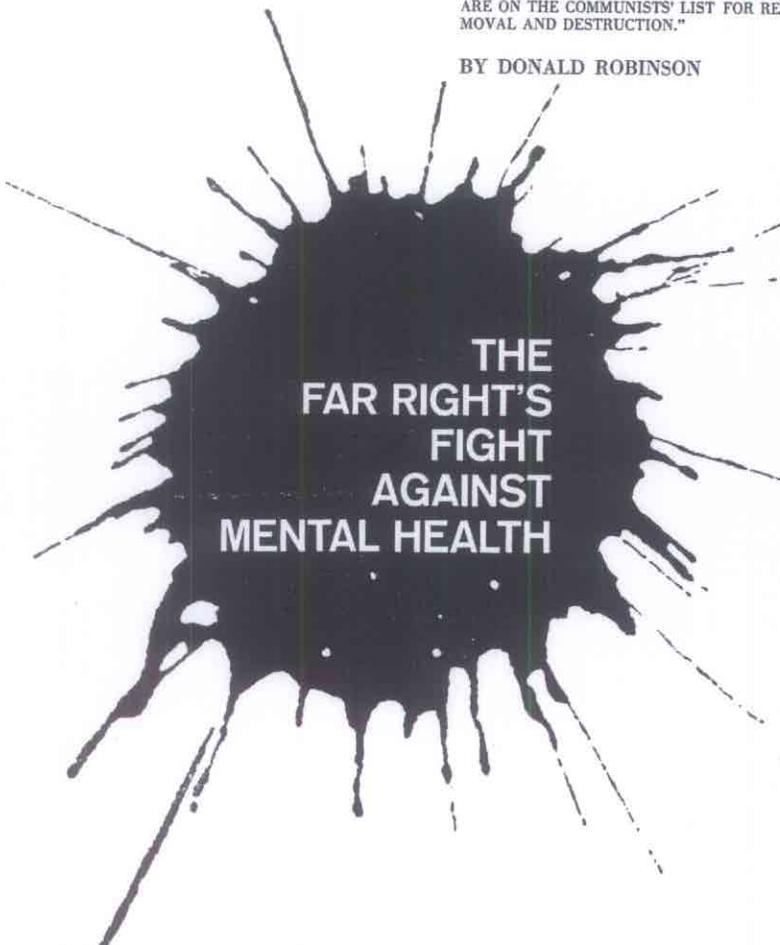
THE JOHN BIRCH Society's section leader in a well-to-do district of Los Angeles is a friendly, 44-year-old real-estate salesman with a happy laugh. His name is Edward John Golden, and he said right off, "Call me Ed." He called me Donald right off, too, without my even suggesting it.

I'd heard that Ed was running for the state legislature on an anti-mental-health platform, and I asked him why. At once, his voice changed timbre. "Mental health is alien and Communist-inspired," he snapped.

In Wyoming, the state chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution passed a resolution in 1960 charging that some psychiatrists use "drugs, shock and lobotomy" on persons with "certain ideological beliefs." The chapter demanded that the legislature take action to protect individuals from "needless or wrongful institutionalizing."

In Texas, a tract distributed by the ten thousands stated: "If you are a businessman, a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a politician, a minister or in any place of responsibility or authority . . . YOU ARE ON THE COMMUNISTS' LIST FOR REMOVAL AND DESTRUCTION."

BY DONALD ROBINSON



THE FAR RIGHT'S FIGHT AGAINST MENTAL HEALTH

There are always crackpots who make wild statements, and their ludicrous comments should not be taken seriously, some people have said to me. But the effects of this nationwide campaign against mental health are not funny. A horde of John Birchers and other members of the Radical Right descended upon the Wisconsin legislature last year, shouting that the mental-health movement in Wisconsin was a subversive plot. They caused the defeat of some 20 mental-health measures that seemed certain of passage.

"We didn't know what hit us," said James Bouillion, executive secretary of the Governor's Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Nor was the campaign laughable in Santa Monica, Calif. When the City Council voted funds to establish a mental-health center to provide outpatient care for mentally sick people, the extremists raised such a furor about Kremlin-directed brainwashing that the frightened Council rescinded its action. Today, in this city of 86,000, there are no facilities to diagnose and treat mentally ill adults who haven't the funds to pay for private care, except for the limited services donated by a little group of psychiatrists at a Roman Catholic hospital.

The campaign of fear is responsible for some tragic deaths, according to Dr. Jack B. Lomas, clinical professor of psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine. "I have known a number of mentally sick men and women who were so frightened by anti-mental-health propaganda that they killed themselves rather than accept help from any psychiatrist," he told me.

The Far Right's battle against mental health is being waged through public meetings, billboards, pamphlets, newspaper smears, anonymous phone calls and poison-pen letters. By putting intense pressure on public officials and legislative bodies in more than 30 of the 50 states, extremists have halted or handicapped the fight against mental illness, the nation's No. 1 health problem.

Over 1,575,000 persons were treated in hospitals for mental sicknesses last year. More people with mental illness were in hospitals at any one moment than the combined total of those with cancer, heart trouble, pneumonia and every other killing and crippling disease. And that's only part of the story. On the basis of nationwide studies, the National Association for Mental Health estimates that one out of every ten Americans—19,000,000 people in all—suffers from some sort of mental illness requiring psychiatric treatment.

Facilities for treating these millions are critically short. In all the United States, we have scarcely 1,900 outpatient clinics; we urgently need more than that number. Some of our 600 state mental hospitals are still "snake pits," where 50 percent of the patients receive little or no therapy for their conditions, often just custodial care.

The Radical Right denies that any problem exists. "This 'phony' concern about our so-called declining 'mental health' has been planted by Communist agents, frontiers and sympathizers for the purpose of demoralizing the American people and spreading defeatism," Rightist Matt Cvetcic charged.

At a 1958 convention, the 11,000-member 17th District of the American Legion's California Department passed a resolution—unanimously—asserting, in part, that: "Certain forces dedicated to the overthrow of our form of government have distorted the magnitude of the problem of mental health out of true proportion."