

**BIRCH SOCIETY SUES
N.B.C. FOR \$8 MILLION**

FORT WORTH, Oct. 6 (UPI) —Two libel and slander suits were filed in United States District Court Tuesday in behalf of the John Birch Society, its president and two of its members. The suits accused the National Broadcasting Company and asked \$8 million damages.

The plaintiffs charged that Chet Huntley and David Brinkley, N.B.C. television newscasters, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation "had arrested certain parties who engaged in selling arms and ammunition feloniously acquired to the John Birch Society."

One suit, demanding \$6 million, was filed in the names of Robert Welch, president of the

society; Laurence E. Bunker of Boston and McDonald Hays of Amarillo, Tex.

The suit asks \$1 million actual damages and \$1 million punitive damages each for the three men. The second suit, making the same charges, was filed in the name of the John Birch Society. It asks \$1 million punitive damages and \$1 million actual damages for the society.

Russell Baker, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said the suit was filed in Fort Worth because it has "a climate area where we felt we could get a fair trial."

Fort Worth, Mr. Baker said, has a hall named in honor of John Birch.

N.B.C. offered no comment Tuesday on the suit. A spokesman said here that N.B.C. had not been notified of the suit.