

Rea

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The Birch Society Halts an Issue of Its Magazine

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Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, Dec. 16—The John Birch Society has withheld distribution of this month's issue of its Magazine American Opinion because of two articles critical of the Kennedy Administration.

A spokesman for the right-wing organization said there was "nothing erroneous or unfair" in the article. But the issue was withdrawn, he explained, "in the interests of good taste under the present circumstances, even at the cost of inconvenience to our subscribers."

The society's headquarters in suburban Belmont said that

Copies Containing Criticism of Kennedy Withdrawn— 'Good Taste' Cited

Nov. 22 was the scheduled mailing date for the December issue. When news came of President Kennedy's assassination that day, it said, the mailing was stopped.

Later, the society's executive committee decided to publish full-page advertisements attributing the assassination to a Communist. The first of these appeared in yesterday's editions of The New York Times.

The ad also invited readers to send for "preliminary infor-

mation" about the society, which stresses its aim of combating Communism.

Some literature was listed as free and some as costing \$1 to \$5.

The ad did not bear the name of Robert H. W. Welch Jr., founder and president of the society. Mr. Welch indicated a year ago that much of its policy-making would be in the hands of the executive committee.

Col. Laurence E. Bunker of suburban Wellesley, a society councilman, disputed interpretations that the ad had been placed to recruit members or remove the organization as a prime target for public criticism.