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The John Birch Society

"For by thy words thou wilt be justified, and by thy words thou wilt be condemned," said Our Lord long ago. (St. Matthew 12,37)

If you have been approached by a "Catholic" Bircher to join The John Birch Society (on the Society's empty selling line that it is your sole bulwark against the Communist take-over), and may be wondering about its merits, these paragraphs, taken at random from the Birchers' Bible, The Blue Book of Robert Welch, the founder, will prove that it is no more possible for a Catholic to be a Bircher than for him to be a member of any other anti-God movement; for these excerpts, words out of Welch's own mouth, give you a solid look at a man who is

a rejecter of Jesus Christ as God; an apostate from Christianity  
(Protestant Christianity)

a rejecter of all God's manifestations of Himself to mankind as recorded in Holy Scripture

a peddler of Darwin's theory of Evolution explicitly condemned by the Catholic Church

a peddler of a new religion, a super-faith, the Masonic amalgam encompassing, then submerging, all faiths, with room of course for those of no faith

From the outset, Welch insists (not to lose so soon the God-believing reader?) that he is not--not--proposing a new religion, until near the end of his slender, small book, he then admits that what he has proposed is a new religion, thus:

Page 155 (The Blue Book of The John Birch Society, paper cover, 1961 edition)

"That brings us next to a consideration as to the very nature of our undertaking which needs to be made clear. For all revolutions, as Metternich once pointed out, begin in the best minds and work downward. While most religions begin at the bottom, with the masses, and gradually acquire both respectability and acceptance at the top. We are neither, and both."

"...and both"! Both a revolution and a religion! Into which the Catholic--sufficiently now flattered by Welch's frequent reference to the man of superior intelligence--is invited to bring his Faith within Welch's "broad and inclusive circle" of humanitarian (Masonic) brotherhood, to which "all" will subscribe, with each man still keeping, if he so wishes, his own personal faith.

But surely the tempted Catholic will not forget that Jesus, true God and true Man, established one only True Faith, to which all men must belong, for when parting from His Apostles on Ascension Thursday, He said:

"He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe shall be condemned." (St. Mark 16,16)

Which means, as the Catholic Church teaches, that only "invincible ignorance" (not apostasy!) may save the unbeliever. And for a Catholic to place his True Faith on an equal basis with "all" faiths is to deny the teaching that all the others are false, and that all false religions are sins against the True Faith.

"He who rejects me, and does not accept my words, has one to condemn him. The word that I have spoken will condemn him on the last day."  
(St. John 12,48)

But let Robert Welch disclose his further thoughts, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," said Our Lord. (St. Luke 6,45)

The Blue Book, page 50

"For the next part of the truth we must face is that for the past several hundred years our morality, in Europe and America, was tied to a belief in the rewards and punishments delineated by Christian dogma; to the accepted commandments of a very real and very majestic Deity..."

"Now the trouble is that in the minds of a vast majority of worshippers, their God had become too close, too concretely defined, and all the details of heaven and hell and of their God's creation and rule of the earth had become too vividly and too rigidly put in place. This whole framework of belief could not withstand the sheer facts and convincing rationalization of the scientific revolution. When Herbert Spencer relegated his own Divine Being to the infinitely remote and impersonal classification of a First Cause, those increasing thousands of intelligent human beings who followed his convincing analyses found that the celestial palace they had built in their minds began to look empty, unnecessary, and perhaps ridiculous. And by the time Ernest Haeckel came to write his Riddle of the Universe, that palace and all the foundations of dogma and doctrine which supported it were crumbling into tragic ruins."

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"For our fathers and their religious preceptors had become too specific and too finite in their beliefs about the Infinite; too egocentric and almost patronizing in their adoption of a Deity as Himself somehow created primarily to be a Father to man..."

"...adoption of a Deity as Himself somehow created primarily to be a Father to man..."

The God of Holy Scripture is, then, merely a creation of men's minds?

And to be a "a Father to man" would demean Divinity? Then how is it that the haunting parable of the forgiving Father awaiting the return of the Prodigal Son has the inexhaustible power to save millions of sinners in every age from despair and Hell, giving them courage to also hope for forgiveness, while raising some to the loftiest heights possible to the human spirit?

Page 52

"A religious faith had somehow come to rest its case in the minds of men on these and similar minute and unjustifiable projections

The Blue Book, page 52 (continued)

of its more important certainties. As increasing knowledge of history and science made it more and more impossible for the intelligent mind to accept the projections, the more general and deeper articles of faith began to lose their hold as well."

"Through many centuries Christianity, despite all of its splits and schisms, supplied the fabric of morality for the whole Western World--through its threats of punishments, promises of rewards, and the humanizing effect of its proffered love by and for a Divine Father. But despite all the billions of words that have been written to the contrary, the fabric is now pierced and torn and weakened beyond dependability..."

"For a vast majority of those who proclaim themselves Christians today and attend church services, do not really and literally believe in either the punishments, the rewards, or even in the physical and biological existence of a Divine Father with any interest in their personal lives and actions. The momentum of a former belief, and the customs which grew out of it, still have great value. But the fabric is worn too thin to have its old effectiveness."

"...the fabric is worn too thin to have its old effectiveness..." In the belief of a Divine Father Who does know and does care about each individual's life.

Against this attack on its faith, let the still-believing soul remember Christ's still-assuring words:

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. Yes, the very hairs of your head are all numbered." (St. Luke 12,6)

"...But I am not in favor of trying to reimpose all or any of the strands of a fundamentalist faith on those whose reason, whether right or wrong, has honestly told them that we cannot know such positive things about the Unknowable..."

"...not in favor of trying to reimpose..." Because Welch's reason too has "honestly" told him that the God of Christianity does not exist.

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"But I believe there is a broader and more encompassing faith to which we can all subscribe, without any of us doing the slightest violation to the more specific doctrines of his own creed or altars of his devotion. And I believe it is an ennobling conception, equally acceptable to the most fundamentalist Christian or the most rationalistic idealist, because its whole purport is to strengthen and synthesize the ennobling characteristics of each man and the ennobling impulses of his own personal religion. It is a conception which the Baptist John Birch, the Catholic Hilaire Belloc, and the agnostic Thomas Jefferson would alike have welcomed."

Hilaire Belloc, who never tired exulting in the treasure of his Catholic Faith, would have "welcomed" Welch's "broader and more encompassing faith"?

The Blue Book, page 135

"...For those who already have such a bedrock of faith, and stand on it and abide by it, I can offer nothing, and I would certainly take away nothing. But for those who are no longer sure exactly where they do stand, on what rocks or how firmly, I want to try to show them that all of these bedrocks together constitute a foundation with room and strength for us all..."

Page 137

"It is hard for man to realize that the Infinite still remains infinite, untouched in its remoteness and unreduced in its infinity by man's most ambitious approaches; or that all of man's increasing knowledge leaves the Unknowable just as completely unknowable as before. But I think that, being allowed now to grasp this truth, we should cease to quarrel and disagree over how close we are to God. For we are using a term which, in a literal context, or objectively, has no meaning. We can then each put the God we worship as close to ourselves, subjectively, as our own faith and understanding dictate..."

"...being allowed now to grasp this truth..." How adroitly Welch slips in the assumed assent of his reader to what he calls "truth": That our closeness to God is a term which "has no meaning"!

And this is how Welch compares a blasphemer's denial of God with the inspired word of God in Holy Scripture itself:

"Those same interpretations and recordings and expressions of man's developing experiences, beliefs, and faith do not come to us today as further books added to our Bible; but they are being given to us, with greater and easier understanding than we might otherwise achieve, by the same kind of reverent and poetic minds. So here is Carruth's justly famous poem:

'A fire-mist and a planet,--  
A crystal and a cell,--  
A jellyfish and a saurian,  
And caves where the cave-men dwell;  
Then a sense of law and beauty,  
And a face turned from the clod,--  
Some call it Evolution,  
And others call it God.' "

The above is the first of four stanzas of the "justly famous" thoughts of a "reverent and poetic" mind!

Page 140

"One philosopher will tell you that the possession of these upward traits in some species was purely an accident of nature, another that it was due to the plan of a Divine Being. To me they are both saying the same thing."

The Blue Book, page 141

"The same thing is true with regard to those gradually acquired characteristics of his own animal nature, and later human personality, which converted him from monkey to primate, to barbarian, then to a man so far civilized that the male proposes deferentially to the weaker female before he will even touch her, in satisfaction of the second strongest impulse of his being..."

At this point, an embarrassed "Catholic" Bircher may try to justify his membership by saying he rejects the religious and moral errors of his leader and that he is only interested in the political aspects of the Society, etc.

But God Our Lord has said:

"No disciple is above his teacher... It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher..." (St. Matthew 10,24)

For God knows that it is impossible for a disciple to escape contamination from an evil teacher. For the Catholic, therefore--for any Christian--no extenuating position is possible here. Robert Welch has rejected Christ as God. Christ has said:

"He who is not with me is against me..." (St. Matthew 12,30)

He also said:

"Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I in turn will disown him before my Father in heaven." (St. Matthew 10,32)

Welch, having disowned Christ, is inviting the Catholic believer to accept the "Unknowable" deity of Masonry as the basis for his super-faith, the "broad and inclusive circle" of humanitarian brotherhood, wherein each man will deposit his respective faith as in a spiritual melting pot!

To pray that Christ's parable of the forgiving Father may yet be the final hope of Robert Welch--and the hope of every other dupe of Satan--that is surely Christ's own charity and compassion, but how can a Roman Catholic--or any other Christian--join Welch in his Birchers' version of The Apostasy?

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November 29, 1976

Dear Friend in Our Faith:

What do you know about the John Birch Society? JBS members have been making aggressive inroads into the Traditionalist groups here, inducing people to join on the false premise that it is solely a patriotic-political organization; and because no one more capable was available for the job, I have tried to present a brief expose, based entirely on the founder's "Blue Book"--a most appalling piece of Masonic propaganda, which many members had never <sup>read</sup> ~~some~~, never even heard of-- though it is for sale publicly.

Will you please then do take a few minutes of your time to read this little paper, and if you are in agreement will you please pass it on to whomever would make the best use of it in your area? (I can ill afford this printing expense, but now learning that masses of Catholics are being duped into joining, I feel I am privileged to make this contribution for our precious Faith, helping to expose the JBS for what it is: Just another spearhead of Masonry, beguilingly offered for these "modern times"!)

Will you therefore let me send you additional copies for distribution where you feel they may do the most good?

How many, please?

Sincerely,

*Mara Galvanukas*

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10/27/76