

UI Officials Study Prof's Article Attacking Kennedy

Birch Society Aide Charges President Aided Communists

University of Illinois officials Wednesday studied an article by Prof. Revilo P. Oliver, who charged that President John F. Kennedy aided the "Communist conspiracy."

Oliver, a classics professor on the Hampton-Urbana campus, wrote that President Kennedy's "memory will be cherished with distaste" by Americans.

His 18-page "Marxism in Dallas" is in the current issue of the John Birch Society's monthly publication, American Opinion. Oliver is a national counselor for the Birch Society.

"THE MATTER will be looked into, we'll undoubtedly get a more complete" said Howard W. Clement, Chicago patent attorney and president of the U. of I. board.

Clement added that UI professors "have all the rights of free speech of any private citizen."

"Clement (Oliver) has gone so far as to bring the university into the picture. I doubt there will be anything done to him at this time," he said.

But Clement added that university statutes require a faculty member to be "mindful of the fact the most used accuracy and dignity befitting his profession" with the school.

RAY PAGE, state superintendent of public instruction and ex-officio member of the UI board said he will take a copy of Oliver's article, if he can find one, to the Feb. 18 trustees meeting.

"From what you tell me, it doesn't meet with 100 good favor from me," Page said. "I'd like to know what he is basing the statements on."

U. OF I. board member Harold Popow of Decatur reserved judgment until he reads the article, but said:

"I certainly don't agree with the John Birch Society, for one thing."

"I certainly don't agree with any accusations that President Kennedy helped, the Communist conspiracy in any way, manner or form."

BOARD member Wayne Johnson, president of the Illinois Central R.R., said "I will certainly get hold of the article and then I'll make some comment."

A spokesman for UI Pres-

ident was falling behind a scheduled date for the "effective capture of the United States" in 1963.

Robert Welch Jr., founder of the John Birch Society and editor of the magazine, called Oliver's article a "superb commentary."

Oliver also charged that President Kennedy:

- "Procured his election by procuring boot-heel to the supporters."
- Backed the Central Intelligence Agency in a "fake invasion" of Cuba designed to overthrow our moral enemies there."

- Collaborated with Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev in a "phony entente" to give cover for transfer of Soviet troops and weapons to be used against the United States.

- Arranged for subversion and sabotage of America's defenses.

Oliver wrote: "If the international vermin succeed in completing their occupation of our country . . . Americans will remember Kennedy while they live, and will curse him as they face the firing squads or toil in a brutish degradation that leaves no hope for anything but a speedy death."

Oliver also said that Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, was "a Communist agent" who was "trained in subversive techniques and guerrilla warfare including accurate shooting from ambush at the well-known"

school for international criminals near Miami (Florida)."

Oliver added there could be only three explanations why Mr. Kennedy was murdered by Oswald:

- "Kennedy was betrayed by the Communist conspiracy because he was planning to turn America . . . into a Communist satellite."

- "The assassination was the result of one of the fifth and infrequently occur within the management of the Communist conspiracy."

- "The conspirator ordered the assassination as part of a domestic operation for a domestic takeover."

Oliver called the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency "now the major branch of the Soviet secret police in the United States."

Clement said Oliver's writings "make Sen. Joseph McCarthy sound like a leftist."

REVILLO P. OLIVER first

name is his last name spelled backwards) was born to reach Tuesday in his home at Urbana.

His wife said he is usually busy, writing or lecturing. He and his wife have two children.

He was born in Corpus Christi, Tex., in 1910, then received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Illinois in 1932 and 1935. He earned his Ph.D. at the U. of I. in 1940 and served in the Army during World War II. He has been on the UI faculty since 1937.

A BRIEF biography with his American Opinion article characterizes him as "an academician of international reputation who has published scholarly articles in four languages."

Fellow faculty members have called him "a brilliant scholar in the classics." He teaches both Greek and Latin, and has held both Guggenheim and

Fulbright fellowships for advanced study.

CHARLES FLYNN, assistant to the UI president Henry, said "there isn't much comparison" between Oliver and Prof. Leo F. Koch, who was evicted from his post in 1960 after condoning premarital sex relations in an article in a campus newspaper.

"Koch was dealing with a student problem and his advice was contrary to moral standards generally accepted by most people," Flynn said.

Oliver, he added "was commenting on a national policy matter not directly related to the university or its program."

MOGER EBERT, editor of UI's student newspaper, the Daily Illini, said, "There is no point in which I agree with Prof. Oliver's remarks concerning our late President."

"I find Prof. Oliver's statements repugnant, and I believe them to be untrue."

"However, a free, democratic society such as ours has nothing to fear from the expression of any opinion."

"I believe it will be wrong for anybody to take punitive or disciplinary action against Prof. Oliver because of his views, no matter how distasteful they may be."

"He shares with all citizens the right to speak his mind."



REVILLO P. OLIVER

Gov. David D. Henry also said Henry would not comment on the article until he had read it.

But he said, "The matter will be referred for study by proper academic offices at the university."

OLIVER said President Kennedy was doing much for the "Communist conspiracy."