

Is It Too Late?

The recurrence of the question "Is it too late?" (or, alternatively, the assertion that it is too late) would almost be amusing if the stakes were not so high and morale not such an important factor in the eventual outcome of the battle for freedom. To demonstrate the antiquity of this theme we could draw on literally dozens of discussions in the *The John Birch Society Bulletin* going back to the early sixties. But these comments by Birch Society founder Robert Welch in the April 1973 *Bulletin* illustrate the point:

We are told that it is too late. Usually by people who a year ago did not know and would not believe that there was even a Conspiracy. Then all of a sudden they see the picture, and in no time are shouting that the Conspiracy is too powerful and too far advanced for anybody to be able to stop it. To these unrealistic pessimists we would have volumes to say, if there were room. Beginning with the question: If the struggle is all over, then why on earth is the Nixon Administration in this country, and are the Insiders in the Common Market countries, and others like them all over the "free world," still maintaining such massive deception about what they are actually doing?

Of course it's too late, unless we do enough about it. The hour was already too late when the Society was founded. This was made clear to us by both a Congressman and a Senator, who were voluntarily retiring in 1960 because the Conspiracy was already so powerful that nothing could stop it. We are sure R.M. Whitney must have felt much the same way, when he finished writing *Reds In America* in 1924. And Captain Schaack of the Chicago Police must have believed that it was probably too late to stop the worldwide conspiracy he had discovered and partly uncovered, when he fin-

ished in 1889 his monumental book on the Haymarket Riot of 1886....

Our real problem is not with the people who think it is *too late*, or who salvage their consciences by claiming to think so — but just the opposite. Our concern is with getting enough people to see *how late* it really is, so that they will come in now and help us with labor and time and money that are proportionate to the menace and the need.

Twenty-five years later there are still many good people who are oblivious to the immense danger we face. But waking people up to a sense of their great peril is not nearly the problem it used to be. A much greater challenge today is to help people catch the vision of an effective solution. And as part of that challenge we still must deal with the doubters on many fronts, including those who feel it may be too late.

~~Efforts to supply a greater vision of the~~ opportunities for success and to provide appropriate leadership (as the Society has done) can certainly help prevent many from falling victim to the inevitable discouragements in a protracted war. Another approach is to scrutinize the analysis of those who claim it is too late.

Restricted Vision

We are not suggesting that unqualified doomsday predictions are forever the work of fools. For it can become too late, as it has in country after country. However, the length of time over which such claims have been made without disaster befalling us certainly suggests that it is easy both to overlook important factors and to make errors in judgment when assessing something so complex. Moreover, it is irresponsible to urge others to retire from the field of battle when there is such room for error.

Generally those who claim it is too late are guilty of restricted vision of the battlefield. They focus too much on the enemy's current strength and current momentum

but discount or ignore the enemy's obvious and not so obvious limitations. Moreover, they ignore the opportunities for building resistance. In the immediate aftermath of Pearl Harbor, those who focused on the Japanese advance might have found it easy to declare Japan the inevitable victor.

As we approach The John Birch Society's 40th anniversary, it is clear that Mr. Welch was right on target when he stated at our founding meeting, "We have many layers of strength not yet rotted by all of the infiltration and political sabotage to which we have been subjected." If not for these layers of strength, can there be any doubt that the Insiders would long ago have established their global tyranny?

Many layers of strength in civilized society are not so easily eradicated. They are the cumulative contribution of countless individuals over centuries. In the March 1969 *Bulletin*, Mr. Welch recalled the factors that eventually repudiated the French Revolution:

For there is no more inevitability or historic determinism that the Conspiracy will be finally and completely successful now than there was in 1794. At that time the embryonic prototype of this present worldwide terror and deception was being inflicted on France. There seemed to be no end in sight. But under the rising pressures of returning decency, tradition, and common sense the whole horror suddenly collapsed. Our job is to make today's tremendously larger model of the same Conspiracy collapse again. And to do so by building the same pressures of the same humane traits, in so many ways, at so many points, on so many fronts, that their total impact finally becomes irresistible. We do not have to tell you the amount of courage and work and sacrifice and unwavering resolution that will be required. But we do tell you again, my good friends, and leave you with this one inspiring thought: *It can be done.*

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