



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on June 6, 2023

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Taking Action: What Comes After Durham?

Throughout its history, The John Birch Society has been the target of attacks from across the political spectrum. These attacks, many of them distasteful, have not been grounded in fact; rather, they come from a desire to defeat an opponent using any means necessary.

This is the *modus operandi* used against anyone who stands against those conspiring to change a free republic into a world-government-serving member of a new world order.

The recent revelations of the Durham Report follow a long list of activities that federal agencies have taken against American citizens over many, many decades. Over the last 20-plus years, thanks to the federal efforts to battle “terrorism,” constitutional protections have come under attack, making targets out of law-abiding patriots.

Fusion centers were established that entangled local and state law enforcement with federal law enforcement through the Department of Homeland Security. One such fusion center is the Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC), which in 2009 released a strategic report titled “The Modern Militia Movement.” This report highlighted certain individuals that law enforcement should perceive as anti-government and as having a potential for violence. Included on the list were those who believed in conspiracy theories and used such terms as New World Order, North American Union, and Constitutional Convention; were concerned about Second Amendment rights or being chipped with RFID technologies; and were supporters of presidential candidates Ron Paul, Chuck Baldwin, and Bob Barr. Additional warning signs included displaying the Gadsden flag and using the term *molon labe* (“come and take them”).

A few months later, DHS released an assessment called “Right-wing Extremism” from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis. It pointed to a segment of returning veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars as being prime for radicalization, and likewise included a new world order, illegal immigration, and gun control as trigger topics.

As *The New American* concluded about the MIAC report, “[It] is very dangerous; it erroneously conflates law-abiding citizens and their principled concerns with violent racists and terrorists. As a result, citizens may be harassed, have their rights violated, and even have their lives endangered because law-enforcement officers have been wrongly advised that these innocent actions and expressions are actually marks of dangerous and aggressive individuals.”

Things have only gotten worse under the Biden administration.

Now that the Durham Report is out, will the exposed activities be curtailed? Will guilty parties be charged? This remains to be seen; however, you can take action to help strengthen the bulwark of freedom that separates federal and local law enforcement. Robert Welch, founder of The John Birch Society, wrote in June 1965, “Remember, a strong, honest, independent local police force is an impassable barrier to the advance of Communism.”

“For members of local police forces, who are personally acquainted with their neighbors, simply cannot be depended on to carry out the brutalities which may be ordered by a central government. And we have already reached the point in our own country where the question of who constitutes or controls the law-enforcement body in any given situation is of tremendous importance,” Welch continued.



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When police allegiance slips from local to federal, there will be dire consequences. Many communities are now feeling these consequences after buying in to the radical “defund the police” movement that demoralized local police, took them off the streets, and suggested replacing cops with social workers.

The weaponization of the federal government becomes much too easy when it is allowed to operate outside of its constitutional limitations. However, the Founding Fathers anticipated much of this attack and gave us tools to protect ourselves, our families, and our God-given rights.

With the launch of the “Support Your Local Police and Keep Them Independent” action project in the early 1960s, JBS members and supporters have had great local success. Help keep local police a bulwark of freedom, as the Founding Fathers intended.

Learn more about how to do this at JBS.org/SYLP.



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