



Written by [Gary Benoit](#) on January 23, 2024

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## What Will It Take for You to Get Involved?

This magazine, its predecessor publications, and its parent organization The John Birch Society have been warning for generations that the blessings of liberty that we've enjoyed as Americans are increasingly endangered by the growth of government beyond its constitutional restraints and the corresponding erosion of responsibility.

America's drift away from fundamental principles of good governance, we've further warned, has been by design and is not inevitable. Bad policies have caused America to go off course, and those policies can be changed.

At the founding meeting of the JBS in 1958, founder Robert Welch warned of the direction the policymakers of his time were taking us:

- "Greatly expanded government spending, for missiles, for so-called defense generally, for foreign aid, for every conceivable means of getting rid of ever larger sums of American money — as wastefully as possible."
- "Higher and then much higher taxes."
- "An increasingly unbalanced budget, despite the higher taxes."
- "Wild inflation of our currency, leading rapidly towards its ultimate repudiation."
- "Government controls of prices, wages, and materials, supposedly to combat inflation."
- "Greatly increased socialistic controls over every operation of our economy and every activity of our daily lives."
- "Far more centralization of power in Washington, and the practical elimination of our state lines."
- "The steady advance of federal aid to and control over our educational system, leading to complete federalization of our public education."

Welch also warned about other plans to take America off course, including "the gradual surrender of American sovereignty, piece by piece and step by step, to various international organizations — of which the United Nations is the outstanding but far from the only example."

Those warnings were issued more than six decades ago, and they have, unfortunately, held up well against the test of time. Yet even though many have detected the ominous signposts to tyranny as America has increasingly gone off course, many others have dismissed the continuing warnings of The John Birch Society and its publications, including *The New American*, as alarmist or conspiracy theory.

But since 2020, there has been a seismic shift in the understanding of the American people that something is seriously wrong. In 2020, government authorities used the Covid pandemic to require Americans to wear masks, to compel them to take experimental vaccines, and to prohibit them from going to church or to work. The same year also witnessed widespread rioting that the Left justified as a natural response to our supposedly racist system in the wake of the death of George Floyd.

The pandemic was also used as a rationale for the unprecedented ramp-up of mail-in voting and the use of drop boxes that contributed to the large-scale voting irregularities that marred the 2020 presidential election.



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Then there was January 6, 2021, and the arrest and imprisonment of hundreds of J6ers who went to Washington to protest the flawed election results. The fact that J6ers are being treated differently than left-wing rioters has not been lost on the American people.

In this issue, our cover story sheds much-needed light on the ordeal of the J6ers by telling the story of one prisoner, Kelly Meggs. Also, a companion piece reports on Louisiana Republican Congressman Clay Higgins' conclusion, based on his investigation of the evidence, that hundreds of FBI assets were implanted among the J6ers to lead them astray.

The ordeal of the J6ers is another powerful wake-up call that our freedoms are receding. Yet, while this awakening is leading many to become involved in the freedom movement, others are fearful to speak out because of the prospect of government retribution. For those who may fall in the latter camp, please consider a warning attributed to Hiram Mann: "No man escapes when freedom fails, the best men rot in filthy jails. And those who cry 'appease, appease' are hanged by those they tried to please."



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