

Revalo Oliver Is No Longer With Us

For many years Revalo Pendleton Oliver was a tall tree in the Groves of Academe. Born in Corpus Christi (TX) in 1910, he obtained his B.A. at the University of Illinois and his doctorate from the same university in 1940. From there on the curve was all up. He became one of the world's foremost scholars in classical languages, even translating a play from the Sanskrit.* His knowledge of Ancient Greek and Latin was so comprehensive that during WWII, the War Dept., as it was then called, put him to work deciphering German secret codes.

Sometime during the war Oliver saw a light, one that shattered forever his chances of living a life of ease and respectability with a long entry in *Who's Who*. Unlike the light that converted St. Paul to Christianity, the light encountered by Oliver led him into the perilous and unrewarding path of racial dissidence—the dissidence engendered in the mind of one who looks closely at the fabric of Western civilization and finds it woefully shredded.

After WWII, Oliver joined forces with William F. Buckley Jr. for whose *National Review* he wrote extensively. Delving into the political arena, he was present at the founding of the John Birch Society. *American Opinion*, the Society's journal, published page after page of his rare amalgam of Swiftian and Ciceronian prose.

Oliver, however, was much more than a clairvoyant anti-Communist, a political stance that endeared him to the Birch Society's Robert Welch and Buckley. He was a firm believer that race, not economics or environment, was the principal determinant of man's fate. This *Weltblick* did not endear him to so-called conservatives who out of fear and mental cowardice shied away from the more important issues. In the end Oliver quit or was forced to quit his part-time, part-way ideology allies and go it on his own. He wrote books and articles that no mainstream publication would publish, only managing to get his words in print in quasi-unknown magazines and xeroxed fliers. He probably felt, as most of us do, that even if only a handful of people reads what he writes, it is better to get into print somewhere than bury the manuscripts in a desk drawer. Ironically the closer his writings approached the truth, the more he was denounced by the kept press, which shrugged him off as a deranged Nazi.

Oliver's bristling intellect, his Old World courtesy, his encyclopedic knowledge and his standing as a top-ranking professor at a top-ranking university raised the morale of young Majority activists who worried that no American

with a brain in his head supported "their side." A personal visit to their mentor, whose door was always open, gave them the face-to-face assurance that they were not alone.

The fall of Soviet communism revealed the madness of Marxism and proved what Oliver had always foretold, though by depriving him of one of his principal *bêtes noires* it removed a chief prop of his conspiracy theories, too many of which permeated his writing. Otherwise everything he wrote and thought was based on a solid understanding of the racial tragedy unfolding before his eyes. If there ever was a prophet without honor in his own country, it was Revalo Oliver.



Oliver gave his people little chance for survival. But he never stopped trying to save them from the ash heap of history towards which they are rapidly heading. If the United States should turn around, if the Northern European race is saved either in North America or Europe, if black and Jewish racism is finally defeated, he may go down in history as one of the great men of the 20th century. If all is lost, somehow the memory of this unique man will remain. Bodies do not last, but the products of a supernova mind keep glimmering in some remote corner of the universe until the time arrives for a far-off Promethean descendant to restore the processes and juices of civilization.

Revalo Oliver died, at age 84, on August 10 at his home in Urbana, Illinois. He is survived by his life-long companion and amanuensis, his wife Grace, an artist. The Olivers had no children.

*Oliver's finest writing is found in his book, *America's Decline, the Education of a Conservative* (paperback, 375 pages), which can be obtained from Liberty Bell Publications, P.O. Box 21, Reedy, WV 25270. Price is \$10, plus \$1.50 shipping and handling.

On November 19 a symposium honoring Dr. Oliver will be held at the University of Illinois. Reservations can be made through Sam Dickson, 247 Washington Ave., Marietta, GA 30060. Telephone: (404) 872-3019.

Attendance will be limited to 50.