

Concerning VOA's 12-hour delay in broadcasting the *known fact* that the assassin was an admitted communist, Mr. Loomis said:

"We bend over backward to be careful."⁽⁸⁾

United States Representative Harry R. Shepard (Democrat, California) described his first reaction to the news of the President's assassination:

"The first impression I had — a hasty one at that — was that I had never liked the tenor of the so-called Dan Smoot writings of that area. He's an extremist whose writings are not only flamboyant, but are inclined to be of a violent nature and inclined toward character assassination.

"Further, in that general area you have a considerable grouping of a so-called Welch crowd. It has been apparent that it is a very inflammable area Be it right or wrong, that was my first basic thinking"⁽⁹⁾

On November 24, 1963, *The Daily Sentinel*, Grand Junction, Colorado, editorialized on the assassination, without mentioning the name of the assassin or even hinting that he was a communist. *The Daily Sentinel* put all the blame on Dallas conservatives:

"It is not surprising that the assassination took place in a city where the heat of hatred and vilification has run so high that special security precautions were necessary."

Others vaguely included communists in their denunciation of Dallas by saying that both the "extreme left" and the "extreme right" were responsible; but they concentrated their hatred on the "extreme right" — seeming to equate criticism of the fallen President with treason and homicidal tendencies.

Perhaps the most regrettable remarks were made by the Reverend William A. Holmes, pastor of the Northaven Methodist Church in Dallas. Mr. Holmes spoke on a national CBS television program on November 26, 1963, alleging that children in Dallas schools cheered when they heard of the President's assassination. Mr. Holmes' point was that these children were from the families of political conservatives who had

taught their youngsters to hate the leaders of our nation. Many persons who watched the broadcast felt that Mr. Holmes himself oozed hatred while denouncing the alleged "rightist" haters of Dallas.

In one Dallas suburban grade school, the principal was so shaken by the news of the President's assassination, that he sent children home without telling them why. A few children left, shouting gleefully, "We are free!" But no Dallas school children cheered the death of President Kennedy. There was no accuracy in Mr. Holmes' story. Nonetheless, Methodist preachers of Dallas, at a hastily-convened conference on November 29, formally adopted a resolution expressing "whole-heartedly our defense of our brother William A. Holmes' right and every other minister's right to the freedom of the pulpit to declare the mind and spirit of Christ in every area of human life."⁽¹⁰⁾

As if anyone had even hinted that a preacher should be denied freedom to declare the mind and spirit of Christ!

Mr. Holmes might have expressed sorrow over the fact that public school officials could not, in the hour of national shock and sorrow, call children together for prayer, because the Supreme Court has outlawed such prayer in our public schools. Mr. Holmes did not do that. He, and many others like him, chose, rather, to deliver tirades about political conservatives.

Following the murder of Oswald, K. W. Cornell, Associated Press staff writer, wrote an article for *The Dallas Times Herald* (Monday, November 25, 1963) based on interviews with numerous clergymen. Here is a sentence from the lead paragraph:

"But the nation's moral leaders said this killing, like the assassination of the President, reflected a blight in the temper of the people."

Oswald was a psychotic misanthrope. He mirrored the hate and lawless violence characteristic of communism; but it is an insult to the United States to say that he in any way, or to any degree, reflected the "temper of the people."