

ren, had denounced the "bigots, fanatics, fright peddlers," which even the wire services by that time interpreted as meaning the "right-wing." No one thought of *left-wing* bigots, fanatics and fright-peddlers — which number into the multiplied millions. I could not help but think, as I read Earl Warren's remarks in the paper and heard him on television, what qualifications does this man have for being a justice in the United States Supreme Court? No judge condemns a man before the evidence is brought in. It is a part of the "due process of law."

On my way back to Tulsa, on a rest stop in El Paso, Texas, I picked up the Friday, November 22, El Paso Herald Post. On the front page it quotes County Judge Glen Woodward as saying, "This is a bitter blow to our nation, a thing that casts shame and sorrow over the country. We know that the so-called far-right, the super-patriots have created much ugly feeling in Dallas, but no one dreamed such a thing as this would actually happen. I am too shocked to talk very much right now. I can only say that those who have encouraged hatred among our people are to blame."

The question in my mind and my heart then and today is, why didn't these men, before they formed an opinion, wait for the evidence to be brought in? Why didn't they at least consider the fact that it might have been a communist who shot the President? Anti-communists or conservatives are not known for going beyond the law. Instead, they are known as a patriotic group that loves the law of the land and that is dedicated to upholding it. Why didn't these officials, especially judges, practice what they preach, that a man or a group of men are innocent until proven guilty? Why were they so anxious to hang the blame on the conservative movement of the United States? Did they really think that the conservatives of America were capable of such a satanic crime as assassinating the President of the United States? If they thought they were, then it shows their utter ignorance of the aims and objectives of the conservative movement of the United States.

After three days of reflection, much thought, meditation and a lot of prayer, I have gleaned the following facts. These are my thoughts, as I said, written only seventy-four hours after the death of the President. It is possible, of course, that events in the next few days will alter some of my thoughts. But, as of today, I wish to go on record as to what I, as a minister of the Gospel and an American anti-communist, feel concerning the death of our President.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY IS A TRAGIC THING

The assassination of our President is a tragic thing. I have not always agreed with President Kennedy, but I could never, under any circumstances, condone or tolerate any movement that would use force and violence as a means to accomplish an end. Mr. Kennedy had many critics. Senator Goldwater was one; Governor Nelson Rockefeller was one; former Vice-President Nixon was one; former President Eisenhower was one. In his own party he had many opponents. Senator Strom Thurmond was one and even in recent days, ultra liberal Senator Wayne Morris was another in his sharp criticism of the President's foreign aid program. President Kennedy deserved much better than to die at the hands of an assassin. If one does not like an elected official, there is only one way to remove him and that is by free elections. No man can ever justify assuming the responsibility of judge and jury and then executing the decision. Assassinations in a free society can never be justified, let alone tolerated.

Whatever criticism I had of Mr. Kennedy is in the past. I do not intend to resurrect it. He gave his life while on service for his country. As far as I am concerned, he deserves the same tribute and honor as any soldier who died for his land on the foreign field.

Mr. Kennedy was not just the President of the liberals and members of his Democrat Party who agreed with him. Instead, he was the President of all America. I wrote him that once. I stated: "You are my President, too. You are the President of the conservatives as well as the liberals." The enemy has killed our President. We are startled that our enemy would be so brave and so satanically successful right within our own midst. I think every American has shed tears over the assassination of our President.

It was the honor of the United States that was attacked. All of our ideals in history, the grandeur of our past and the hope of our future, these were all attacked when a cowardly communist assassin drove a bullet into the head of John F. Kennedy.

We mourned as a nation. Our heart as a people went out to Mrs. Kennedy and his family. We forgot our differences. We stood as one man in disbelief that an enemy of our country could be so brazen within our midst.

More than once this week-end I have been driven to Psalms 121: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth . . . The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." And, again I have found great personal comfort in Psalms 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea . . . God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early . . . Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

It is ironical that it would take the death of the President of the United States to drive our leaders back to the Bible in search of comfort and direction from the Heavenly Father. The death of our President has made all Americans more God-conscious. May the Spiritual hush that descended over this nation since the death of our elected leader not disappear with the commercialism of Christmas. But, instead, may we retain this closeness to God and this dependence upon His Holy Spirit. For with this Divine aid and help, we will survive as a free and independent nation, but without Him, we will fail.

Indeed, God may well look upon this tragic event as the action that will bring us back to our knees in repentance and faith.

Today I have read anew the poem "Ultima Veritas" by Washington Gladden, which has brought me great solace. I reprint it here so that you, too, may share its inspiration.

**"In the bitter waves of woe,
Beaten and tossed about
By the sullen winds that blow
From the desolate shores of doubt,
While the anchors that faith had cast
Are dragging in the gale,
I am greatly holding fast
To the things that cannot fail:**