

For another thing, the public has been worked into such a frenzy outside this community that any conclusion would not be received with objectivity. Anything favorable would be interpreted as, "I told you they would whitewash the whole thing:" objectionable reports would be greeted with, "Well, who are they going to put the axe to, and when?" I honestly believe that nothing--NOTHING short of public degradation and humiliation of honest, sincere public servants would satisfy this insatiable thirst for revenge from some outsiders.

Yet the Dallas Police Force has not been involved in any scandals with the underworld as has happened in some other large cities. Dallas remains free from organized crime syndicates. Doesn't this count for anything any more?

When any association of Public Relations people, no matter how high principled its individual members; or, for that matter, any leader or professed leaders, can speak out with "moral reassurance" on behalf of every crackpot, profiteer, payoff artist, distorter of facts (or emotions), or provider of prostitutes to conclude big orders in marketing, then I will be agreeable to listening with interest to what the spokesman may have to offer. Obviously, these people are not qualified public relations practitioners--but they assume the name or identify themselves as being in public relations. I do not presume that the perpetrator of this literary outrage is willing to assume the collective guilt of these creatures; neither do I recall any "moral reassurance" that anything concrete is being done to erase this outrageous image from the public mind. Likewise, I do not think it behooves these people who are so abusive with vocal attacks to continue shoveling this collective abuse on a fine city and its citizenry.

I would assure you that there is no end of investigations--quite enough to satisfy even the bloodthirstiest onlooker. Wednesday's newspapers had a story about a group of ministers forming a committee to see if "freedom of speech" has been violated because a teacher was suspended for two days following a letter to Time magazine in which she attacked the atmosphere in the Dallas School System. It wasn't enough simply to sign it as a citizen, but she had to deplore it as a school teacher. A group of ministers also met to reaffirm the "freedom of the pulpit" when a Methodist minister went on television to say that children cheered when they heard the news of the assassination, when a little investigation showed that this elementary school children cheered because they were told that school was out.

I am certain a few younger children may have been indifferent about the news. Our daughter Mary (7th grade) said that all the girls burst into tears at the news; Jimmy (6th grade) said half of the girls were crying and the rest seemed confused or bewildered about what had happened; David (3rd grade) said a few girls cried and the rest didn't really know what to do.

When small children have not been confronted with the tragedy of death or the experience of a great loss, how are they expected to react? Some adults don't do too well in this department.

I personally think there might be room for study of "Responsibility of the Pulpit" to consider and reflect upon the circumstances under which Oswald would agree to baptism of his daughter--because he would have to make a contribution; or the minister who agreed to perform his funeral service but didn't show up; or the minister who did, "because they couldn't find any preacher who would."

What of the grief of Oswald's family? If we are indeed to believe that God is interested in every sparrow, who are these humans to decline spiritual comfort and solace to a family confronted with loss, regardless of the crime or suspected crime of the deceased? And what was accomplished by the minister--who not once, but twice,