

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Other Voices...

Spiral of Hate

Reprinted from *The New York Times*, Monday, Nov. 25, 1963

THE SHAME all America must bear for the spirit of madness and hate that struck down President Kennedy is multiplied by the monstrous murder of his accused assassin while being transferred from one jail in Dallas to another.

The primary guilt of this ugly new stain on the integrity of our system of order and respect for individual rights is that of the Dallas police force and the rest of its law-enforcement machinery. But none of us can escape a share of the fault for the spiral of unreason and violence that has now found expression in the death by gunfire of our martyred President and the man being held for trial as his killer.

The Dallas authorities, abetted and encouraged by the newspaper, TV and radio press, trampled on every principle of justice in their handling of Lee H. Oswald. It is their sworn duty to protect every prisoner, as well as the community, and to afford each accused person full opportunity for his defense before a properly constituted court. The heinousness of the crime Oswald was alleged to have committed made it doubly important that there be no cloud over the establishment of his guilt.

Yet—before any indictment had been returned or any evidence presented and in the face of continued denials by the prisoner—the chief of police and the district attorney pronounced Oswald guilty. "Basically, the case is closed," the chief declared. The prosecutor informed reporters that he would demand the death penalty and was confident "I'll get it."

Highly-Advertised Transfer

After two days of such pre-findings of guilt, in the electrically emotional atmosphere of a city angered by the President's assassination and not too many decades removed from the vigilante tradition of the old frontier, the jail transfer was made at high noon and with the widest possible advance announcement. Television and newsreel cameras were set in place and many onlookers assembled to witness every step of the transfer—and its tragic miscarriage.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

65 "The Dallas Times-Herald"
Dallas, Texas

Date: 11/26/63

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Jack B. Krueger

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Dallas

Being Investigated

66-111072

XEROX
DEC 24 1963

802

It was an outrageous breach of police responsibility—no matter what the demands of reporters and cameramen may have been—to move Oswald in public under circumstances in which he could so easily have been the victim of attack. The police had even warned hospital officials to stand by against the possibility of an attempt on Oswald's life.

Now there can never be a trial that will determine Oswald's guilt or innocence by the standards of impartial justice that are one of the proudest adornments of our democracy. Whatever judgment is made will fall short of the tests John F. Kennedy himself would have demanded. "Our nation," he declared at the time he dispatched federal troops to the University of Mississippi to guard the legal rights of one Negro student a year ago, "is founded on the principle that observance of the law is the eternal safeguard of liberty and defiance of the law is the surest road to tyranny."

The best monument all Americans can build to his memory is the enshrinement of that principle in our day-to-day conduct. Hate and violence are the enemies of law, and never more so than when any of us decides to become his own dispenser of retribution in defiance of law.

We're All Victims

JOHN KENNEDY was an honest man, not so much as tinged with hypocrisy. He wanted to become President and he went about being elected with determination and enthusiasm. He relished the heavy burdens of the job. As we watched him work at it we often thought that, yes, the character and intelligence of a single man can come to grips with the senseless sprawl of history.

A murderer claims but one victim. An assassin claims us all. President Kennedy, in Dallas, was the target in the sights of his rifle. This nation—all of us—were targets too. An assassin's mindless crime seeks to kill a government—a nation—by killing its chief.

President Kennedy has died. Each of us bears a deep wound. There is no more to say now, for sorrow is by natural personal. Each of us will find his own way to live with it.

—HOUSTON CHRONICLE