

56-13

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. Belmont _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Casper _____
- Mr. Callahan _____
- Mr. Conrad _____
- Mr. DeLoach _____
- Mr. Evans _____
- Mr. Gale _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Sullivan *✓*
- Mr. Tavel _____
- Mr. Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Miss Holmes _____
- Miss Gandy _____



Lee Oswald

MAX LERNER

A native returning to these shores, picking up again where he left off, finds a few swirling topics of conversation that sweep all else away. Not many: the school fight, North as well as South; the self-slaughter of the Republican candidates, especially the gruesome hari-kari of Sen. Goldwater; the wrongs and rights of Arthur Miller's remembrance of marriages past; the Warren Commission.

Race, politics, sex-and-marriage, murder. Who was it who said there are only a half-dozen rock-bottom plots in fiction? There may not be that many in conversation. I shall soon be getting back to the school struggle and the Republican circus. As for the Miller-Monroe ruckus, they won't let me get near a seat for months.

There remain the do-it-yourself murders by Lee Oswald and Harry Ruby, each more or less mad in his own way. I lump them together under the do-it-yourself label because I hope we have abandoned the foolishness of calling them either a right-wing or a left-wing conspiracy.

I thought the European papers would never get off the conspiracy jag. One of the best of the European correspondents in New York, Leo Sauvage of Figaro, took issue with an early article of mine in which I bore down on the plot syndrome of the Europeans. I think I was right. But I come back here to find that there are still a sizable number of Americans who cling to their disbelief that Oswald could have planned the Kennedy murder alone, and some who even refuse to believe he did it. Devil theories die hard. Some never die but just fade away.

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The Warren Commission and its staff have taken on an exhausting and thankless task, but it was there to be done. Until its report is published one appraisal is as subjective as another. Mine is that Lee Oswald killed John F. Kennedy, period.

The American Civil Liberties Union has rightly listed a calendar of safeguards that belong to any accused man in America and that had been denied Oswald. It is tragic that Oswald was not given the full judicial protections of the country whose leader he killed, but that does not mean he didn't kill him. Oswald's mother understandably sticks by his innocence, but his wife's reluctant certainty about his guilt is more decisive. Several impressive reports from Dallas, in The Times, have convincingly disposed of the whole array of rumors and theories meant to disprove Oswald's guilt or to link him with shadowy "others".

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

45 NEW YORK POST

John F. Kennedy

RACIAE

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From where I sit he did it—and did it alone. He bought the mail-order gun alone, got the idea for its target alone, did whatever shooting practice he did alone, figured out the Presidential route alone, took his stand alone, sighted and shot alone, made his getaway out of the building alone, had his police encounters alone, was captured alone, clammed up alone, was shot by Harry Ruby alone, and died alone.

Let the Europeans and Asians and Latins cling to their plot syndrome if it helps confirm their view of America as a charnel-house of right-wing ghouls dancing with linked hands a macabre dance of death. Also let the Birchers be stuck with their theory that Oswald, a confused Communist, did what he did as a stooge of a Khrushchev-Castro ring. The truth is harder to swallow than either of these fantasies. The truth is that a man can kill a President all on his own, and that equally on his own another man can kill the man who killed him.

Why should we try so hard to disbelieve it? We . . . after all, despite all the conformisms, a highly individualistic culture. It is bred in our bone that a man can carve out his own career and life, right up to the summit. Why shouldn't it follow that he can also compass another man's death, even at the very summit?

* * *

Oswald, in his beclouded mind, thought he was a Marxist. Gus Hall, a Communist spokesman in America, has just written a pamphlet pointing out that Communists don't believe in individual terrorism. He is right. They believe only in mass terrorism, in death by the thousands and millions in the name of history—except where they have a Trotsky to kill. But Kennedy wasn't a Trotsky. He wasn't a Communist target. That is what makes it all the harder to get inside Oswald's brainpan, and find out how a mind worked that directed a shot equally at Gen. Walker and at John F. Kennedy.

We shall never know. You can't psychoanalyze a dead man. But what seems to have counted for him was less ideology than the daring individual gesture, the lone reign of terror, the unthinkable personal deed that will leave its mark on history.