

New Yorkers Fan Flames Of Hate Against Lyndon Johnson

"Lee Oswald Shot The Wrong Man"

BY VICTOR LASKY

NEW YORK (NA)—The "climate of hate," said to have permeated the city of Dallas at the time of President Kennedy's murder, appears to have afflicted New York to such an extent that visits by President Johnson to this "tan city" should be discouraged.

That's the view of at least one top city official who apparently has no advised federal authorities. As of now, however, there are no immediate prospects of a Presidential visit here.

The hatred of the President, which appears to be growing more virulent by the day, is largely centered among leftwingers and ultra-liberals who view Mr. Johnson as Evil Incarnate because of his position on Viet Nam.

"Lee Harvey Oswald shot the wrong man," is heard frequently in these circles. This is more than just a sick joke. These friends of the Viet Cong really mean it.

Some young people who frankly concede they'd rather be red than dead, are wearing New Left buttons with slogans that publicize their views. One of the more printable slogans is "Sterilize LBJ." Others are "LSD, not LBJ" and "God Is Alive In the White House."

The vicious slander that LBJ was somehow responsible for the

tragic events in Dallas is being spread assiduously. Materials taken out of context from the William Manchester book, "The Death of a President," are being used to fuel this contention.

And associates of Senator Robert F. Kennedy are not helping matters when they take ambivalent positions towards the Warren Commission report which fingered Lee Harvey Oswald—a prize example of muddled leftist thinking—as the Presidential assassin.

Perhaps the most shocking development is the extraordinary success of a butcher-paper pamphlet entitled "MacBird." This is a parody of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," cleverly written by a 26-year-old Berkeley radical, Barbara Garson.

"Deliciously seditious," commented New Left historian Jack Newfield in the local "Village Voice."

Chief victim of Mrs. Garson's "magnificent malice" is President Johnson, according to Newfield.

"The sub of the play is that Johnson is the ambitious Macbeth who is responsible for the murder of Duncan John F. Kennedy. To add nuance, MacBird is also made vaguely responsible for Adlai Stevenson's death and Edward Kennedy's plane crash of 1964. The message is that Johnson is the incarnation of evil."

And the implication could well be that the world would be better off without the presence of so evil a man.

Talk about McCarthyism! This kind of propaganda is infinitely worse than anything the late Senator McCarthy was ever accused of.

Yet "MacBird" will shortly open as an off-Broadway production, and its author was recently awarded a financial grant by the Yale Dramatics Department for more such literary efforts.

"The Minneapolis Daily American"
Minneapolis, Minnesota
January 18, 1967

62-109060-

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