

OSC - DAILY - TRO/201
171760

MacBird—Or Dallas

By MARY MILLER

Feature Editor

Secretary: The Earl of Warren's here.

MacBird: Well, send him in.

Earl: My lord you send for me?

MacBird: I know, sit down. My predecessor's death has grieved the nation.

Earl: Indeed, he was beloved.

MacBird: Indeed quite right. (Gruffly)

Now some folks whose wits are crazed with grief still seek a villain, chase a phantom foe.

Although the killer's killed, they cannot rest.

And I desire to set their minds at ease.

Earl: O course spite flit like fleas throughout the nation.

MacBird: That's why I'd like a full investigation,

Conducted by a man of such repute

That we may put an end to all these doubts

That man is you

Earl: O courseo spite

That ever I was born to set things right.

MacBird: I don't believe you understand the job.

I wouldn't say you're asked to set things RIGHT

I think you get the point.

Earl: Oh, whine and pout.

That ever I was born to bury doubt.

And so the dialogue continues in the play "MacBird" by Barbara Garson, a UC at Berkeley graduate, who has drawn an impres-

sive parallel between the Kennedy assassination and Shakespeare's play "Macbeth."

It all starts at the Democratic National Convention with Ken O'Dunc and Robert debating about whether to offer MacBird the vice-presidency:

"But Jack, you know it isn't merely

Scruples," protests Robert.

He has such a lean and hungry look.

Such men are dangerous.

As the action moves on, MacBird meets with the three witches (a beatnick demonstrator, a Black Muslim and an old leftist).

Soon afterwards, Ken O'Dunc is killed while riding in a parade arranged by MacBird and Lady MacBird. From that point on MacBird's problems multiply — a revolt in Vietland and trouble from Bobby Ken O'Dunc who is exiled in New York.

Undaunted, MacBird promises "our highest goal is peace"

But in this quest

We shall not fear to

use our righteous might.

In short, we seek that Pax Americana

That all the freedom loving world desires.

The unity of all as contents us

We plan to govern this planet by consensus.

MacBird is not too worried about his position though because the witches previously told him "no one with beating heart or human blood can harm him."

Unfortunately, he is wrong because Bobby's conspiracy works and the avenger kills MacBird (who dies of a heart attack just as Bobby plunges the sword in.)

"To temper us for roles of world authority" Bobby says, the elder Ken O'Dunc replaces his son's hearts with steel and plastic tubing and their blood with a tepid antiseptic brine.

UNDERGROUND SATIRE

This underground play is a biting satire that paints LBJ as a vulgar, scheming and power-mad villain. It not only broadly pins the assassination on Johnson, but it also hints he is re-

sponsible for the death of Adlai Stevenson and Edward Kennedy's plane crash.

Some of the best parts of "MacBird" are those passages that are so often quoted from Shakespeare. Miss Garson has parodied them in hilarious fashion. Witness the cauldron scene:

Round about the cauldron go.

Watch the bubbles boil and grow.

Stench of Strong and tongue of Kerr.

Picket, sit-in, strike, and stir,

Regents raging, Knowland hot.

All boil up our protest pot.

Bubble, and bubble toil and trouble

Burn Baby burn and cauldron bubble.

A JOKE

MacBird was first published in pamphlet form as a joke, but it is now selling out as fast as copies roll off the press. It is so popular,

revisited

yet radical that theaters across the country refuse to dramatize it because of the broad implications it casts LBJ's way.

Miss Garson's basic aim in writing the parody was to expose the hypocrisy of the nation's political leaders. Although her attacks on Johnson are the most evident, the second half of the play lampoons Bobby Kennedy as a duplicitous conniver and paints Ted Kennedy as a plain, run of the mill dum dum.

Even Lady Bird doesn't escape the ax as her national beautification program takes its knocks:

Flower by the Roadside.
Plant these flowers . . .
Let all the land be lined
with living blooms,
Yet all the petals of a
summer's rose
Can never sweeten this
accursed land.

Miss Garson's next play is based on the book of Job in which Job is a liberal

democrat, God is the Democratic Party and the devil is the GOP. It will be interesting to see who wins.

As for MacBird and his lust for power, he dismisses the Warren Commission thus:

Just think of those law abiding folks

That should be sheltered from despair and doubt.

Those simple people need their trusting faith.

They count on us to work their problems out.

Earl, you and I must tolerate their confusion.

We bear this load to save them their illusion.