

## The Cocktail Party

The New York Times isn't waiting for Congress to initiate a second investigation into the murders of J.F.K., J.D.T., and L.H.O. The Times has assigned one of its best reporters — John Corry — to learn definitive answers to some of the nagging questions, e.g., why Billy Nolan Lovelady, the man who looks like Oswald, won't pose for a formal photograph. The Warren Commission decided that it was Lovelady, not Oswald, who was photographed standing at the entrance to the book depository building

at the moment of J.F.K.'s assassination. Lovelady was never re-photographed by the Commission; today, three years later, he flees from all cameramen. A two-column photograph of Lovelady, made on the run, was published exclusively in BOOKS/Sept. '66. The Times also wants to know what happened to Oswald and who was with him between the time he was shot — probably by Jack Ruby — and the time that his subscription to life expired 90 minutes later in Parkland Hospital, where two days earlier there was found on a stretcher a nearly pristine bullet that the Commission concluded had passed through the President and severely damaged a rib, wrist, and thigh of Governor Connally. At the first press conference after the President had died, Parkland doctors announced that the bullet was *still* in the Governor's thigh . . . Emile de Antonio's film, *Rush to Judgment*, based on Mark Lane's book, includes television footage of Oswald as he was paraded through the corridors of the Dallas jail on the evening of the assassination. Oswald is shown repeatedly saying that he knows nothing about the President's murder and that he isn't even being questioned about it.

FLASH: As BOOKS/December went to press, Harper & Row's board chairman and chief editor—Cass Canfield and Evan Thomas, respectively—were flying to London to meet with William Manchester, who was there with his agent selling book publication and newspaper serialization rights to Manchester's controversial "The Death of a President," about events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. The Harper executives were carrying a letter from Mrs. John F. Kennedy guaranteeing that she would not initiate legal action against the author and his

publishers if Mr. Manchester would make changes in the manuscript, primarily deletions of quoted harsh comments by Kennedys and their staff about President Johnson. Mrs. Kennedy has been advised by lawyers that she could successfully stop publication of the book "for invasion of privacy" and for "unauthorized use of copyrighted material." Mr. Manchester, harassed for months by the Kennedys—even though he had been requested by Mrs. Kennedy to write the book—had reportedly developed an attitude of "let's get out the book as I wrote it—and to hell

with the Kennedys." The book is scheduled to be serialized by *Look* magazine beginning in late January and to be published by Harper & Row on March 1. . . . Meanwhile, the editors of *New York Review of Books*—Robert Silvers and Barbara Epstein—reportedly have elected to remain on good terms with their Kennedy contacts, deciding therefore not to publish Gore Vidal's "strong" and "brilliant" review of all the Kennedy books. *Esquire* will publish it.

Just before air-time, the following observations by Leo Sauvage ("The Oswald Affair") were cut from the three-hour *Metromedia* telecast featuring critics of the Warren Report:

SAUVAGE: There is in the Warren Report a small paragraph, a very fascinating small paragraph, concerning the deposition by James Jarman, Jr., one of the employees there. And, according to this statement which the Warren Commission does not put in doubt, Jarman reports that a short time before the passage of the motorcade Oswald asked him, "Why are those people standing around?" And he explained to him that because the motorcade is passing by. Oswald said, "Oh, yes," and that was all. So we have a very interesting moment. Did Oswald play the part in order to secure an alibi? And then, why didn't he secure an alibi in other terms. For instance, in hiding his photographs and so on and burning some documents. Or is it true that he didn't know at all that the motorcade was passing by. This statement in the Warren Report is still open to discussion.

Playbill guesstimates that the average New York theatre evening costs \$63.37 with tickets, baby sitter and dinner, parking and drinks. . . . On May 25, Theodore Mann, the theatre producer, wrote to Barbara Garson about her play *MacBird*: "I found it highly original and exciting. The satire is brilliantly funny and timely; I am very interested in producing it." On October 16, in a letter in *The New York Times*, Mann condemns the play as "purely propagandistic" and infused with "partisan dogmatism." . . . Why is the *Washington Post* doubling its staff?