

The Empty Pew

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By the time this gets to Phoenix, it will probably be too late, but it is being written before the events take place as a hopeful witness. One of the things I hope is that it is dead wrong—for if it's right, "dead" will be the word for freedom.

A nationally distributed news service which serves as outlet for right-wing smears, recently released a rumor that an attempt would be made on Hubert Humphrey's life in Chicago. This could be the result of effective investigation by the F.B.I., or it could prepare the way for a mass prosecution of the Negroes in America.

In the first place, the F.B.I. knew both the manner and the location of the assassination attempt on John Kennedy's life, yet they made no effort to stop

the parade, nor did they ever search and clear the Texas Book Depository Building. In fact, 125 law officers were called to an office very near the assassination site and given strict orders NOT to participate in any way in protecting the President, or in any event which might occur relative to his safety!

In the second place, this column predicted the assassination of a major political contender in January. So far, two such assassinations have occurred, one to a candidate, one to a leader. All of the assassinations have been aimed at the effective silencing of creative and dynamic viewpoints, and they all leave the reactionary powers in control.

In the third place, there has been predicted by this author and others the fact that Lyndon Johnson will be the next president, regardless of how it is achieved. It is now known that some major lobbyists on the Washington scene are acting upon the assumption that either Johnson or someone within his circle of power will be the next president. This does not mean Humphrey, who is not useable by the present ruling junta. It could be done by selecting the vice-president as successor to the popular figure, and then eliminating the president.

The significance at this time is that by releasing the story prior to the event, the groundwork is laid for easy placing of blame on the Negro, and avoiding the obvious question of who would profit most by Humphrey's death. The Negro needs his kind of leadership, the right-wingers want him shut up.

Read Volume One of Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." It can happen here.