

Defenders of the Gospel  
According to Warren

Bickel, Sparrow, Goodhart, Roche—  
No Clarence Darrow there, by gosh,  
To pit against Mark Lane,  
Only a Sparrow-brain,  
A scholar-in-residence,  
An Ivy legal-eagle, and  
A white house Eminence,  
To prop up Warren's bench.

Bickel, Goodhart, Roche and Sparrow—  
Breathes there a don with mind more narrow,  
To truth more fickle?  
Professor Alex Bickel, to be sure,  
Holds the key and has the cure:

The illustrious Commission,  
Pure and good of hart,  
Remains above suspicion,  
While parties of the second part,  
The critics! are a mongrel pack,  
Nouveau-Roche and luster-lack--

Place those villains on the rack!

Thus do the apologists  
Dispose of "demonologists"  
But bravely though they whistle  
And bestow their benediction  
The lone assassin and the single missile  
Still take the prize for science fiction.

(9 January 1968)