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widow—decided to veto him. But it was too late. Contracts had been signed; lawyers were lining up. Kennedy knows this, if Capote doesn't, and Kennedy and I remain on good terms today.

2. I did not get rich. At the outset of the task, I provided that my book royalties would be paid to the Kennedy Library. Actually, I'm still paying off debts that arose from the project. I'm not crying all the way to the bank, because I don't happen to be headed in that direction.

3. It is absurd to suggest that I was asked to write a "popular" book, while Arthur Schlesinger was to write a "definitive" account. As it happens, my academic qualifications and Arthur's are identical. He, Ted Sorensen and I were writing at the same time and were in constant communication.

4. Capote asserts that the Kennedys "gave" the book to me (his italics, I presume). If this means that the material was supplied to me, it is false. I developed my own resources, did my own research and paid my own expenses. Altogether, I conducted over 1000 interviews. To be sure, some members of the family talked to me. Others, understandably, found the prospect too painful.

Let me cite an example. Mrs. Kennedy assured me that her sister would be available for an interview, but her sister declined. To this day, I have never met Lee Radziwill. I believe Capote has. I propose that next time he feels like slandering me, he check with that lady.

William Manchester
Center for Advanced Studies
Wesleyan University
Middletown, Connecticut

That Truman Capote "believes" the Warren Report to be correct in all its essentials and to be flawed only by "minor technical errors and omissions" suggests that he is insufficiently acquainted with the Warren Commission's own records (the 26 volumes of the hearings and exhibits) and with the responsible critical literature. These establish indisputably that the Warren Report is deformed by deliberate misrepresentation and even alteration of fact, and that vital evidence, such as spectrographic test results and crucial films and photographs, remains suppressed, in some instances without even a pretense of legitimate purpose.

Capote's relegation of the critics of the Warren Report to the ranks of "vultures" who are looking for "an easy way to make a living" compounds his ignorance with malice. The critics include persons who were quite gainfully employed and even some of independent wealth; most of us are now poorer by substantial sums unhesitatingly spent in pursuit of a deeply held conviction that a shameful miscarriage of justice had to be reversed. But, like some other apologists for the

Warren Report, Capote finds it easier to indulge in name-calling than to refute the facts brought to light by the critics.

I do not, of course, consider Garrison one of the critics of the Warren Report, notwithstanding his pretensions. Capote is quite correct in deeming the Garrison "case" nothing but "a lot of hot air," and I can endorse all of his remarks on this subject. Which proves that if anyone talks long enough, he is bound to say something sensible.

Sylvia Meagher
New York, New York

Mrs. Meagher not only read the 26 volumes but indexed them. Her subsequent book, "Accessories After the Fact," has been widely praised for its meticulous research and scholarly objectivity.

COMPELLING CHRONICLE

George Byram's story, *The Chronicle of the 656th* (PLAYBOY, March), left me breathless. He put into words something I have dreamed about for years—going back in time to participate in the Civil War. While reading his story, I was transported back to 1864 and actually experienced events that had previously been only fantasies for me. It was a great story—the best ever in PLAYBOY.

Neal Growcock
Rantoul, Illinois

The Civil War short story by George Byram is, without question, the finest thing ever done on the War Between the States. It certainly belongs with the writing of Stephen Crane, Bruce Catton and Burke Davis.

S. L. Pruitt
Baltimore, Maryland

Byram's story is the most outstanding piece of fiction I have read in years. Living in the Pacific Northwest, I can only guess how readers below the Mason-Dixon Line are reacting.

Peter Gilliland
Olympia, Washington

George Byram's *The Chronicle of the 656th* was excellent.

William H. Howell
Fayetteville, Arkansas

If PLAYBOY has ever published fiction as intriguing or as engrossing as *The Chronicle of the 656th*, it is beyond my memory. The story was the best treatment of the time-transport concept I have ever seen. And the accompanying photograph by Chuck Wood was just as good.

M. J. Parish III
De Funiak Springs, Florida

George Byram's account of the 656th R. C. T. ranks with *Brave New World* and *1984*, not only in its spellbinding plot