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Facts on J.F.K.'s Death

To the Editor:

In his Nov. 22 Op-Ed article on the Kennedy assassination David W. Belin writes of "the susceptibility of human nature" to fall victim to the "mystique of conspiracy" in accounting for the public interest in the "assassin sensationalists." Mr. Belin then proceeds to "pounce" on one aspect of the case: namely, the immediate arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald.

I would like to inform the public servant, Mr. Belin, that the breeding ground for political sensationalists of any kind is seeded by the practice of secrecy and censure by Congressional, judicial and executive agencies. When the facts are obscure the power of imagination soars.

After all it was not the sensationalists who censored all information pertaining to the initial questioning of Oswald by Dallas police. Moreover it was not the sensationalists who entombed all vital data related to the assassination in Government vaults for the next 99 years. What could prompt Justice Warren to take such precaution? Why wasn't there a Congressional debate? Why should the representatives of the people safeguard vital information from the people? For the Government official —whether he is President, Senator, Justice or simple investigator—there is but one conventionally acceptable reason for secrecy—that is, when it remains the opinion of Government that vital national interests are at stake and such vital interests presumably justify the suppression of relevant data surrounding the murder of Kennedy and Oswald.

Mr. Belin asks that I trust him. First let Mr. Belin reply whether he would place his individual conscience over and above the survival of the nation if the national interest was, in fact, at stake. If his answer is in the affirmative then he has my trust. However, if Mr. Belin believes that other members of the investigating committee are of similar commitment then I would withhold my confidence in Mr. Belin's political intelligence even while I congratulate his morality.

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