

"The Rhetoric of Evasion, by Richard Drinnon, Professor of History, Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.), THE NATION October 13, 1969

"Violence in America is now out in the open--in the streets, so to speak, and in the libraries, offices, conference and hearing rooms...once recognized it must be immediately reconcealed, rendered politically irrelevant...After all, one of the traditional claims of the national State is that it provides security to its subjects. More important, the recognition of significant internal violence would call into question all the current myths that legitimize official violence. Seen in this light, Chief Justice Warren headed up our first national commission on violence; his task was to restore the feeling of security shattered by President Kennedy's assassination. This was accomplished by establishing the pretty truth that the ugly event had no meaning: Oswald was a nut. After the assassination of Robert Kennedy, Mr. Johnson followed what had become standard operating procedure: he quickly appointed a commission of most distinguished Americans to immediately examine this tragic phenomenon. Milton Eisenhower took up where Warren left off. Eric Hoffer replaced Gerald Ford as the solitary man of letters on the commission and a new team took over."