

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"
And 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)