

8/10/74

Dear Sylvia,

N.Y. Times. OP-Ed page of Aug. 7 had two articles under the headline "Inducing Mr. Nixon to End His Seventh Crisis." One piece was written by Bessie McMillan who was identified by the Times only as "writing a book about the assassination of John F. Kennedy." Do you know anything about her and her point of view? The piece she wrote about Nixon attempts an explanation of his "durability." It is cast in psychological terms. She wonders "whether Mr. Nixon may not have courted his humiliations, may not unconsciously have brought them on."

The failure to relate psychological factors to the political context in which they operate as secondary contributors,

causes and effects implies or stems from a concept of political life as the product of psychology. If McMillan writes her book about the JFK assassination from that point of view she will produce only misunderstanding and confusion. Inevitably, she will make an analysis of Oswald as an alienated assassin.

JFK tried a more or less frontal assault on the military-industrial complex and paid for it with his life. Nixon tried to outmaneuver it and had some success but, in the end, was driven out of office. Thus far he has got away with two homes and a pension.

We returned home from Paris, July 31, eliminating the last leg of our trip, London. A fall in Amsterdam

caused or resulted from vascular or neural trouble in my left leg, according to the doctor I saw in Paris, which gave me agonizing pain when I walked. During the doctor prescribed eliminated most of the pain and enabled me to limp after Man to art galleries, concerts, museums, restaurants, and so on. But the doctor advised rapid return and tests and was going off on vacation Aug 1. To go to London meant to risk more trouble and another doctor. So we came home and saw "our" doctor who thinks my trouble is a torn muscle and prescribed two weeks of rest as a beginning. That's what I'm doing now - resting. Then we'll see.

Thomas