Page 18, Section 1 HOUSTON CHRONICLE Sunday, August 24, 1975 ★★★★

Man Who Killed U.S. Nazi Leader Is a Free Man

Pulaski, Va. (UPI) — Almost exactly eight years ago, John Patler took dead aim from the roof of a northern Virginia shopping center and killed American Nazi party leader George Lincoln Rockwell. Today he is a free man.

Patler was paroled Friday from the Pulaski Correctional Center in southwest Virginia by state authorities. They called him a model prisoner. He is the first major political slayer of the 1960s to be freed.

A former captain in the American Nazi party, Patler, 37, was described by prison officials as "a model inmate." He served eight years of a 20-year sentence for the Aug. 25, 1967, sniper-killing at a shopping center where the self-style American "Fuhrer" was washing his clothes at a laundromat.

The other major political assassins of Americans during the last decade either are in prison or are dead.

• Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission said was the sole assassin of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, was shot and killed by Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby before he could be tried. Ruty died of cancer in prison.

• Sirhan B. Sirhan, convicted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, will be paroled Feb. 23, 1936, by California prison officials if he obeys prison rules.

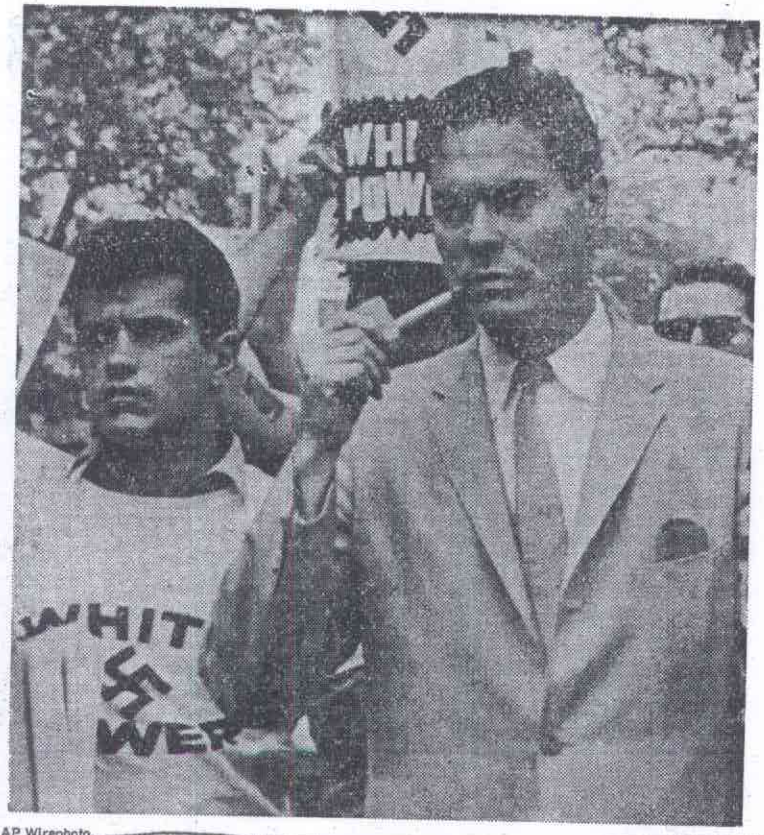
• James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, is serving a 99-year term in Tennessee with no provision for parole.

• The three men convicted of killing Black Muslim leader Malcolm X in 1965 — Thomas Hagan; Norman Butler, also known as Norman 3X Butler, and Thomas Johnson, also known as Thomas 15X Johnson — are serving life terms in separate New York state prisons.

Patler was expelled from the Nazi party for "Bolshevik leanings" five months before he shot Rockwell.

He edited and illustrated "Storm Trooper," the party's magazine. Patler drew many of the "Hatelets" cartoons which urged destruction of blacks, Jews and Communists.

A native of New York and son of a Greek immigrant, Patler changed his name in 1961 from Patsolas. He served in the Marine Corps from 1958 to 1960 and was discharged "for reasons of unsuitability" under honorable conditions.



AP Wirephoto

JOHN PATLER, LEFT, PAROLED FROM PRISON
He Killed George Lincoln Rockwell, Right, Eight Years Ago