

COURT JESTER

Tricky Dick Rides Again

The Realist never labels an article as either satire or journalism, in order not to deprive you of the pleasure of discerning for yourself whether it's actually true or metaphorically true. Sometimes as editor I'm not even sure myself. When I published an article in #116 by George Andrews, his concluding question seemed far-fetched: Would Chinese political prisoners be forced to supply biological spare parts?

But now a letter in the British medical journal *Lancet* claims that kidneys from executed Chinese prisoners are being sold to transplant patients for \$17,000. Dr. Siu-keung Lam of Queen Mary's Hospital in Hong Kong wrote: "Kidneys are usually obtained from prisoners who are executed for offenses such as rape, burglary or political 'crimes' against the state. No consent for organ removal is given either by the prisoner or the family. Furthermore, the family rarely collects the body after execution for fear of harassment by government authorities."

Likewise, #117 featured an article that defies credibility—"The Role of Richard Nixon and George Bush in the Assassination of President Kennedy" by Paul Kangas (belated credit to Michael Ochs Archives for the photo of Nixon and Bush). It was read on the radio by Bob Fass of WBAI in New York and Haines Ely of KVMR in Sacramento, sent out to 6,000 activists over the PeaceNet computer bulletin board, and reprinted in the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee monthly, *Rights*, which goes to every member of Congress and the Senate.

A couple of further facts have since emerged: Then-CIA operative George Bush named three boats in the Bay of Pigs Invasion—*Houston*, *Zapata* (after his oil company) and *Barbara*. And, on November 24, 1947, an assistant to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover sent this "sensitive" memo about Jack Ruby to HUAC: "It is my sworn statement that one Jack Rubenstein of Chicago noted as a potential witness for hearings of the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities is performing information functions for the staff of Cong. Richard M. Nixon, Rep. of California. It is requested Rubenstein not be called for open testimony in those aforementioned hearings."

Nixon has long served as a personification of the Freudian slip. When a reporter asked him how he felt about the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby following the assassination of JFK, Nixon replied, "Two rights don't make a wrong—I mean . . ." Now, 28 years later, Nixon said of Saddam Hussein: "He is an international menace. If I could find a way to get him out of there, even putting a contract out on him, if the CIA still did that sort of thing, assuming it ever did, I would be for it."

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IN
"THE REALIST"

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