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Successive mu

The latest of New American Library's provocative "Broadside" paperbacks is a timely companion to Justice Abe Fortas' recent essay *Concerning Dissent and Civil Disobedience.* Where Fortas examined the legal limits of protest, historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. examines its illegal extensions in **Violence: America in the Sixties** (50¢). "The murder within five years of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert F. Kennedy," writes Schlesinger, "raises — or ought to raise — somber questions about the character of contemporary America. One such murder might be explained away as an isolated horror . . . but successive murders in so short a time of three men who greatly embodied the idealism of American life suggest . . . an emerging pattern of response and action." Schlesinger traces the history of violence in America from the institution of slavery and the conquest of the Indians through 25 years of almost ceaseless war to the assassinations and street rioting of today. We have become, writes Schlesinger, "the most frightening people on the planet," and he calls for a sustained self-examination, free of self-righteousness and the conviction of moral infallibility, "before hatred and destruction rush us on to more evil and finally tear the nation apart." It is a book for thoughtful reading; to glibly deny it with the label of "mass guilt" does little justice to a problem of such massive and urgent concern.