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Editor Urges Judicial Reform

By ALEX B. PRITZKER

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – The news media should "take the initiative" to help reform the nation's criminal judicial system which is archaic in its approach to modern court problems, says newspaper editor JOHN SEIGENTHALER of Nashville, Tenn.

The author of "A Search for Justice," Seigenthaler maintained that less publicized trials frequently are concluded with little justice accomplished.

JOHN SEIGENTHALER

Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville *Tennessean* and a member of the national Advisory Commission on Information under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, spoke at a recent meeting of the Cardinal States Professional chapter. Six members were initiated at the meeting.

The speaker, whose journalism honors include the 1962 National Headliner Award, mentioned the trials of James Earl Ray in Memphis, Clay Shaw in New Orleans and Sirhan Sirhan in Los Angeles.

In the Ray case, Seigenthaler observed, testimony indicated that Ray was incapable of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Yet the court sent Ray to prison without questioning him in the witness stand or before a grand jury.

In the Sirhan case the court spent a million dollars yet failed to determine Sirhan's competency to shoot Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Seigenthaler termed District Atty. James Garrison's court tactics in the Shaw case as "absolutely ludicrous" with "far-fetched" evidence permitted to be used in court "by a weak" presiding judge.