[redacted] OF THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM [redacted]
[redacted]TLY AFFECTED," THE REPORT SAID, "IT SEEMS THAT IT WILL BE
NECESSARY TO OBTAIN EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE FROM AID-GIVING AGENCIES."
ADV FOR AMS SAT AUG 14
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AUG 15

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ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 15
BY ISABELLE HALL

WASHINGTON (UPI) --THREE REPORTERS WHO COVERED THE TRIALS OF MEN CHARGED IN THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT "AMERICAN JUSTICE WORKS ACCIDENTALLY, IF AT ALL."

THEY BLAME THE LEGAL PROFESSION FOR SEIZING ON IMPERFECTIONS IN THE PRESS AND DIRECTING ITS MAJOR REFORM ATTENTION TO THE "FREE PRESS VERSUS FAIR TRIAL" QUESTION, THEREBY DIVERTING CRITICISM AWAY FROM THE COURTS.

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"THE COURTS ARE NOW BASICALLY CONSTRUCTED TO SERVE THE LEGAL PROFESSION, NOT THE PEOPLE," THEY CHARGE IN A BOOK, "A SEARCH FOR JUSTICE" BY JOHN SEIGENTHALER, EDITOR OF THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN.

SEIGENTHALER, AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO ROBERT KENNEDY WHEN HE WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL, WROTE THE CRITIQUE WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THREE OF HIS FORMER STAFF REPORTERS WHO COVERED THE THREE TRIALS: JAMES SQUIRES, JOHN HEMPHILL AND FRANK RITTER.

AFTER COVERING THE TRIALS OF CLAY SHAW, WHO WAS ACCUSED OF CONSPIRACY TO KILL THE PRESIDENT, JAMES EARL RAY FOR THE MURDER OF DR. KING, AND SIRHAN SIRHAN FOR SHOOTING ROBERT KENNEDY, THE THREE REPORTERS "EACH INDEPENDENTLY REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT AMERICAN JUSTICE WORKS ACCIDENTALLY, IF AT ALL."

"NONE OF THEM FELT HE WOULD HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN CHANCE TO GET A FAIR CHANCE TO GET A FAIR VERDICT WERE HE TO BE PUT ON TRIAL IN THOSE SAME COURTS, BEFORE THE SAME JUDGES," SEIGENTHALER SAID.

THE AUTHORS CONCLUDED SHAW SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN TRIED; NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH AFTER RAY PLEADED GUILTY IN RETURN FOR A 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE, AND SIRHAN'S "SANITY" TRIAL WAS A MOCKERY.

THEY FOUND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM SO LACKING LONG-OVERDUE REFORM "THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE AND OFTEN, ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS, MAY ACTUALLY BE MORE INCLINED TO THWART JUSTICE.

"THE ORGANIZED BAR, PERHAPS AWARE THAT THE COURTS ARE IMPERFECT," SEIGENTHALER WROTE, "HAS SEIZED ON IMPERFECTIONS IN THE PRESS AND HAS DIRECTED ITS MAJOR 'REFORM' ATTENTION TO THE 'FREE PRESS VERSUS FAIR TRIAL' QUESTION."

HE CONTENDS THAT ADVERSE COMMENTS ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE COURTS HAVE BEEN BURIED UNDER "AN AVALANCHE OF LEGAL SENTIMENT" FAVORING THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT WHICH CRITICIZED PRESS HANDLING OF THE PRESIDENT'S ASSASSINATION NOV. 22, 1963, IN DALLAS, AND THE SUPREME COURT RULING THAT FREED DR. SAM SHEPPARD BECAUSE OF PRETRIAL PUBLICITY.

SHAW WAS CLEARED OF LOUISIANA CHARGES HE CONSPIRED WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD TO SHOOT THE PRESIDENT; RAY PLEADED GUILTY TO A TENNESSEE MURDER CHARGE IN RETURN FOR A 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE; SIRHAN WAS CONVICTED IN CALIFORNIA OF MURDER AND SENTENCED TO DIE IN THE GAS CHAMBER.

SEIGENTHALER SUGGESTED THE VERDICTS COULD BE RATIONALIZED AS EVIDENCE AMERICAN JUSTICE WORKS BECAUSE THE WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE ALMOST PERFECTLY BALANCES THE SEVERITY OF THE SENTENCES. BUT HIS BOOK DISMISSES THAT CONTENTION AND, INSTEAD, POSES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

SHAW, A NEW ORLEANS BUSINESSMAN, WAS ACQUITTED AFTER A SENSATIONAL TRIAL HIGHLIGHTED BY CHARGES MADE OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM BY NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY JIM GARRISON WHO NEVER WAS ADMONISHED BY THE BAR DESPITE COMPLAINTS HE CONDUCTED A CIRCUS WITH UNRELIABLE, DISCREDITED WITNESSES. THE AUTHORS CONCLUDE SHAW "SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN TRIED."

IN THE CASE OF JAMES EARL RAY, THE JOURNALISTS CAME AWAY

137 6-140. Get 170 Jimmy Hoffa
172 "Plea + Thinner"

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IN THE CASE OF JAMES EARL RAY, THE JOURNALISTS CAME AWAY CONVINCED THAT DESPITE HIS GUILTY PLEA, THE OVERRIDING QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY NEVER HAS BEEN SOLVED IN THE APRIL 4, 1968, MURDER OF DR. KING.

"THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE SUCCEED IN PUNISHING A GUILTY MAN," SEIGENTHALER WROTE. "BUT IT MADE NO PRETENSE OF INITIATING A SEARCH FOR TRUTH OR PUTTING DOWN WHAT VERY WELL MAY HAVE BEEN A LIE BY RAY."

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN SHOT ROBERT KENNEDY A FEW MINUTES PAST MIDNIGHT JUNE 5, 1968, IN FULL VIEW OF MANY WITNESSES. WITH HIS SANITY THE ONLY ISSUE, THE AUTHORS COMPLAINED THAT THE PROLONGED, MILLION-DOLLAR TRIAL RESULTED ONLY IN "A SENTENCE MORE SEVERE THAN ONE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED BEFORE A JURY WAS SEATED TO TRY THE CASE."

THEY COMPLAINED THAT PERMITTING THE TENUOUS FINDINGS OF PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS TO BE SUBJECTED "TO THE SORT OF BADGERING CROSS-EXAMINATION THAT COMES FROM THE HOSTILE ADVERSARY ENVIRONMENT OF A CRIMINAL TRIAL, MAY ROB THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE."

ADV FOR AMS SUN AUG 15

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PRISON 8-10 NX

BOISE, IDAHO (UPI)--RIOTING ERUPTED TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE IDAHO [illegible]ATE PENITENTIARY AFTER A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE INSTITUTION, [illegible] COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAID.

[illegible]ON OFFICIALS DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS.

[illegible]'S DEPUTIES SAID FIRE TRUCKS WERE SENT [illegible]

[illegible]TARTED AMONG THE INMATES.