

1/17/75

Dear Mr. Latta,

Pursuant to your letter postmarked the 13th Jim Lesar is mailing you a hundred flyers. Many thanks.

If you believe the material on the covers would be helpful and want to distribute that, again thanks.

If I did not respond to your comment about the condition in which the book reached you, it is because I've been that busy. There are other cases and I'll be writing the post office.

It is more than kind for you to offer to pay for the flyers, but we have already gone into debt for all the printing (Lesar borrowed it and we apply 100% of the gross to it and assume all other costs between us) and much as we appreciate this gesture, it is more than most people consider when you will be distributing the flyer.

Best regard and sincere thanks,

JOHN H. LATTA
3238 EAST ANGUS DRIVE
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. 85257

Harold Weisberg, Publisher,
Route 8,
Frederick, Md - 21701

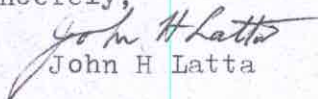
Dear Mr Weisberg: It has been obvious from the beginning that your "Whitewash IV" will not receive the publicity it deserves. I would like to do my bit to penetrate the fog in this area by a limited private circulation of any publicity fliers you may have prepared for this book.

I will gladly reimburse you for your cost for up to 100 fliers for your book to which I believe I can give adequate distribution to persons sympathetic to your thesis (and mine). I have in mind your story as told on the inside covers and back cover of your book itself which may already have been used separately for publicity purposes.

If not already available, would you give me permission to reproduce the text on the inside and outside covers of your book only, at my own expense, to give it any additional publicity that I can? These would be Xerox copies in limited quantities for distribution with personal correspondence by First Class mail - not for widespread circular distribution. A sample of a previous effort of the same character is enclosed - total distribution about 250 copies over a period of slightly more than three years.

The composition of the Ford-CIA Commission give no doubt it is planned to be the same sort of "whitewash" and "Cover up" the infamous Warren Commission turned out to be. That is all our so-called "blue ribbon" commissions ever are.

Sincerely,


John H Latta

A Tract for Our Time

IN THIS ISSUE OF RAMPARTS we have taken the unusual step of devoting the entire issue to a single work—Tom Hayden's forthcoming book on the Chicago Trial and the tasks of the new American Revolution. As we go to press in mid-May, America is in a state of crisis. U.S. troops have invaded Cambodia, exposing Washington's determination to stay in Vietnam and increasing the likelihood of war with China and the use of nuclear weapons. National Guardsmen still occupy rebellious communities throughout the country; the four white students they murdered at Kent State University have become martyrs, but the six blacks they shot in the back in Augusta are already forgotten—indeed, they were hardly noticed by a society so racist it does not understand that race war, initiated by the guardians of its law, has already begun.

Yet out of this fragmented kaleidoscope of rebellion and repression, the political opposition of America's young people has in one stroke achieved results at the national level significantly affecting the Administration's ability to extend the war in Asia. For the first time young people have glimpsed the potential strength of their united outrage. Naturally a move has already been made to diffuse their energies by inviting them to fall in line behind established liberal leaders, many of whom architected the war they now profess to deplore. However, the students, realizing the magnitude of their power, have taken their own course of action, shutting down their universities, colleges and even high schools behind their own demands. These demands, ratified by one student body after another, have been largely ignored by the mass media. They are:

- That the U.S. government end its systematic repression of political dissidents and release all political prisoners, such as Bobby Seale and others in the Black Panther Party.
- That the U.S. government cease its expansion of the Vietnam war into Laos and Cambodia and that it unilaterally and immediately withdraw all forces from Southeast Asia.
- That universities end their complicity with the U.S. War Machine by an immediate end to defense and counter-insurgency research, ROTC, and all other such programs.

In making these demands on a racist, war-bent society, the students have proved themselves to be far ahead of the liberal politicians now seeking to channel youthful rebellion into the cul-de-sac of Establishment politics. It is essential that the students recognize *in themselves* the force that can lead the struggle for the future.

WE ARE NOW FACING a whole range of crises, any one of which could permanently and profoundly alter the course of American history and threaten our individual lives and liberties. Together they constitute a social crisis so pervasive and profound as to lift the prospect of revolution from the realm of utopian speculation and raise it as a real political alternative. We believe such a revolution to be necessary. For this reason, we have opened the pages of the magazine to the thoughts of one of the country's most serious revolution-

aries and to a book which we feel is one of the most important literary and political events of our time.

A founder of Students for a Democratic Society, an early civil rights activist in Mississippi, a community organizer in Newark's black ghetto during the bloody insurrection in the summer of 1966, a victim of the police riot in Chicago in 1968 and interred in Judge Julius Hoffman's neon oven a year later, Tom Hayden has been an important member of a generation which has moved from the stony silence of the '50s to the militant protest of the '60s and the resistance of the present. In *The Trial*, Hayden describes the forces that caused this transition. He also gives insights into the process that culminated in confrontation with Mayor Daley's police state. Hayden's is the first complete account by a defendant of what took place inside Hoffman's courtroom: how the "conspirators" differed but were able to come together to plot a common defense; how they "educated" their attorneys; how they reacted to the horrific spectacle of Bobby Seale being bound and gagged.

But this book is more than an anecdotal account of one of America's most historic courtroom dramas. For Hayden feels that the trial was the turning point for an entire generation, and his work thus becomes a common-sense indictment of a system which reveals itself to be not only bankrupt but lethal. It is a primer for revolution addressed to those who see themselves as revolutionaries, those who have worked unflinchingly—and unsuccessfully—for reform through "legitimate" channels, and those only now moving from the sidelines of history to active, outraged opposition.

WE FEEL THAT the coming months can only increase the relevance of this document. The Nixon era, so clearly the fulfillment of everything latent in the American nightmare, will inevitably shatter the illusions of the ecology activists, civil libertarians and liberals who think that the evils of the system can be cured after one or two or a dozen McCarthy campaigns. Over the coming months they too will discover what Hayden and those who made the New Left discovered during a decade: that America's "democratic institutions" are both undemocratic and corrupt beyond redemption; that elections in the present framework are only a way of manipulating despair; and that we, like our land, exist for the benefit of those who have the money to buy us.

We have come a long way in our understanding of America, and the message at the end of the road allows for no more self-deception. "Instead of hoping for a revival of the liberal politics that failed in the Sixties or for a political saviour," Tom Hayden writes in the following pages, "we see in our protest movement the seeds from which to create our own future institutions of government." This is what the agonizing, bloody and disillusioning decade just past has taught. It is a lesson that will only be reinforced by the Nixon era's attempt to return us to the fear and trembling of the '50s. The system cannot be revitalized; it must be overthrown. As humanely as possible, but by any means necessary.

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ALWAYS



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