

INTERVIEW

PAUL BERDE

FP: When will the age of enlightenment come?
 MS: When Bill Cosby gives Dick Gregory a job, we're most enlightened about SOULS negroes, about we—and oddly enough, it's always the ones who are not imprisoned. There is no leadership in the black community. All gone. All over the country. Carmichael, Cleaver, all gone, aren't they? There are no militants left. It's a joke.

FP: The ones who are still around are being jailed and busted. The Black Panther thing really is a development that has come into its own. In the last couple of years, what's been your reaction to that?

MS: What, to the Panthers? You know, I look upon... The cause as far as I can see, is humanity... It's not fragmented. That may be hard for the other people in upon cases as separate. I don't know... I was on the Steve Allen show the other night. Somebody said that the Jewish people had a common bond or pledge, and I don't think so. I think that what's involved here is that any man in his agony is my brother anywhere in the world. And anybody who is enemy, while is my enemy. I think that we live in that kind of an era and will for some time to come. And the cause is humanity. That's what it's all about.

FP: Are you doing any gigs around Los Angeles?
 MS: I'll be doing all the workshops in November at Dunbar's.

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"There was a point in this country at which the military and civilian came into extreme friction. And there was a time for the military to strike and take control of the country, or else they would have had to retire to the background, because there was a president who was finally challenging them."

(Continued from page 1)

FP: Yeah. Well, let's rap down what's happened to you since then, by way of introduction.
 MS: I continued to be in steady touch with the case. Because few people are aware that the case in New Orleans goes on, and I've heard some criticism of Garrison's methods. You may have

ing dinner with Garrison, and he presented me with a plaque at dinner, very unceremoniously, and it says on it, "To Mort Sahl, the best friend John Kennedy ever had." It's on the date of what would have been the President's fifty-second birthday. It's signed Jim Garrison, Andy Shambrogh, who's assistant district attorney, Jim Alcock, who's one of the prosecutors, during the trial along with Shambrogh, and Louis Ron, the chief investigator at the district attorney's office. I was very moved and honored to be remembered that way. The investigation goes on. Clay Shaw was just a prelude. There was a small trial recently of Shaw. Thirty-seven days. You may have read about it in the papers but I doubt if very much if you live in the Continental United States. But that was only a prelude. He's now going to be tried for perjury.

So he will be tried. Also Garrison, private detective down there, has to be tried having to do with the theft of files. And during the trial, Tom Bethel, who was the architect for Garrison, passed along information, is charged with that. His trial will come up, for present along the files for Shaw's attorneys, who are too numerous to mention on this tape. So there will be several trials, and the investigation will go on, and as I was about to say earlier, some people have been critical of us and they have said that our methods are outlandish. I've always really quoted Garrison. "You may not be satisfied with us as investigators, but we're the only investigators you have. You're just going to have to put up with our ways." Because there is no

heard that. It's not that unusual those days. I've heard criticisms of Garrison's methods and of his staff. As Garrison said to me recently, he said, "I don't know how this came about, this condition, but it seems to me that five of us have surrounded the United States Government. Another said, 'you're very honored to be one of those five, to be included in that.' I had probably one of the most touching moments of my life in New Orleans recently. I was hav-

ing dinner with Garrison, and he presented me with a plaque at dinner, very unceremoniously, and it says on it, "To Mort Sahl, the best friend John Kennedy ever had." It's on the date of what would have been the President's fifty-second birthday. It's signed Jim Garrison, Andy Shambrogh, who's assistant district attorney, Jim Alcock, who's one of the prosecutors, during the trial along with Shambrogh, and Louis Ron, the chief investigator at the district attorney's office. I was very moved and honored to be remembered that way. The investigation goes on. Clay Shaw was just a prelude. There was a small trial recently of Shaw. Thirty-seven days. You may have read about it in the papers but I doubt if very much if you live in the Continental United States. But that was only a prelude. He's now going to be tried for perjury.

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investigation at the present into Kennedy's death except Jim Garrison's. And I guess we're a little bit like Lyndon Johnson in that respect, he used to say, "in the case of President you have, we are the only investigators you have. And in much the same sense as Senator Richard Nixon when he bow our president, once pulled Alger Hiss out of the Federal Government not on charges of perjury, perhaps Clay Shaw will go down in flames on charges of perjury and on charges of conspiracy to kill the president.

FP: I understand that Mark Lane called the jurors after the trial here, after they acquitted Shaw and that he said that the jurors manfully agreed that Garrison had deceived and destroyed the credibility of the Warren Commission report.
 MS: I'm giving you here a copy of the transcript that will help you to document that on your own time, and I can tell you a couple of things that happened at the trial. The Warren Report was definitely demolished once and for all in a court of law. It did not hold up. The thesis about

Overall, the thesis about single bullet wounds, and we found out for the first time by admission of one of the pathologists, Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Fink, working under Commander Humes of the Navy, that there was no autopsy performed on the president. That it was forbidden. In fact, there's grave implications here of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as well as the Central Intelligence Agency.

FP: I believe Garrison has made the allegation that Kennedy's death was ordered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
 MS: The government killed the president. It obviously did not have the same aims that the president had. These days that's not a popular notion, that President Kennedy had any virtue, at least I can't find any liberals who agree with it. They don't even remember him. But you can't go by them, they were never a measure. Garrison doesn't intend to take one step backward. He's running for office now.

FP: This month, that's right, in November, and he will win. All kinds of opponents have arrived, and they all have financing, and they all have campaign organizations. Suddenly, they're all talking for justice. They're all looking for justice. But the people down there are a little less sophisticated than they are in New York and Los Angeles, and they can tell the difference between a populist leader and a pawn of the Central Intelligence Agency. And you'll see good results down there.

FP: In the eyes of a great many people, we're rapidly getting into a society that is totally manipulated and dominated by the intelligence agencies.
 MS: Well, of course in the Green Beret case recently you saw the CIA now admits it won't testify. We knew that in New Orleans a couple of years ago. We also have FBI agents down there who refuse to testify—people who in effect say that they are above the law. And those are the fellows that are always talking about elections based on law and order.

Very big. For TV and radio. Well, we've had hundreds—the streets in this country—the street corners have become shooting galleries in the last couple of years—and we're asked to believe that no trials can take place. To review the record, every time a leader who is interested in ending the war—and I want the audience to remember that Martin Luther King was more than a Negro leader, it wasn't just civil rights, he was really an anti-war leader—just as much as Dr. Spock is—they meet sudden deaths by young men whose mothers didn't love them and who are well-traveled. All the young men have had in common, James Earl Ray, Arthur Shriver, and Lee Oswald, a friend a lot. There's another document available for a dime from the Oswald trial which is a list here of classified documents pertaining to the Kennedy assassination. It's three pages in which you can see all the things you can't see. You can see the files of them. This document was classified by the CIA in various cases. That Oswald traveled to, I don't know how much you make, I know how much I make, and I know Os-

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Photo by Paul Eberle

FP: Not have a trial
 Ms. Everybody went along with
 it. And then of course Judge
 Peltie died, mysteriously, any-
 forous death. He passed along,
 Although they said the chain of
 the trial took his toll only after
 it was over. But of course there
 was no trial. Fifteen minutes,
 Ray asked for an appeal. He
 asked to change his appeal. And
 nobody would listen. Percy Fore-
 man looked the other way, and a
 national television Percy fore-
 man, his attorney said "in not
 deflected like Jim Garrison not
 looking to make any waves." So
 the intelligence community, in
 answer to your original assas-
 tion here, the intelligence com-
 munity has grown very socialist-
 carol, very elaborate, because
 the liberals have never put up a
 fight to challenge it. It's grown
 due to their indifference. That's
 all over there. They're every-
 where. They're in religious or-
 ganizations, speaking with the
 mouth of the church and not the
 heart of the church, they're in
 police departments, they're in
 quartermasters and monthlies,
 they're in publications, usually
 left of center, and etc. and they're
 everywhere. In other words,
 the fascists in this country don't
 trust genuine fascists. They
 think it has to be subsidized.
 They don't think that anyone on
 campus would really speak up
 and be a genuine fascist. They
 think they have to subsidize pro-
 plet on the right.

FP: Maybe so. A great many
 people all over this country,
 although they don't say so, they
 feel that it's impossible to be-
 lieve that King and the Kennedys
 and Malcolm X were just killed
 by some lone malcontent, some
 lone, disaffected, neurotic,
 A lone disaffected neurotic
 might go and kill the guy who
 took away his girlfriend or ri-
 ped off his portable stereo, but
 it seems a little bit flimsy—the
 that he would go and rap Bobby
 Kennedy.

MS: They've developed consid-
 erable expertise in this area. By
 the time they get to John Ken-

a funeral, and the California
 Legislature ran through a
 bill to make his autopsy secret,
 and it was reworked and no one
 could examine it, and boom! he
 was reworked to look a casual-
 ty of World War II. It was like
 he never existed. We live in a
 country where we elected a Gene
 McCarthy in state after state and
 only got Richard Nixon, a man
 who couldn't be elected to any of-
 fice, a man who couldn't hold any
 official intelligence. But the people
 have managed to rub their in-
 stincts. They know this is not
 right. And they know that these
 organizations are very sacro-
 sanct. In other words there was
 a point in this country at which
 the military and civilian came
 into extraneous friction. And there
 was a moment for the military to
 strike and take control of the
 country or else they would have
 had to retire to the back because
 there was a president who was
 finally challenging them. That
 point was during the Cuban dis-
 grunt, and it's an irony of his-
 tory that with all that going on
 Khrushchev is out of office and
 President Kennedy is removed
 violently from office but Field
 Cochrin is still down there with

the confidence of his people when
 the entire earth was moved on its
 axis because of that island. That
 was really what took place. The
 military took control of the
 government in this country at that
 time from what we can see in his
 case. That's the scenario. And
 there's plenty of documentation.
 General Earl Wheeler, the chair-
 man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 is finishing his eighth year; I
 think he's limited by law to term
 of two years. You may have seen
 him in the newsreels recently.
 The Vietnamese war died down, it
 wasn't doing too well, he went
 over there to kind of try to drum
 it up and get it going again so it
 could make a comeback, but of
 course all of us are sophisticated
 enough to know that the war isn't
 even the issue because the War-
 fare State has to go on. And it
 needs the coexistence of the
 military and the industrial,
 America's the country that's
 colonized, not Vietnam. If they
 get out of Vietnam, they'll have
 to go to Santo Domingo or some-
 where else or they'll have to
 close down all those factories. As
 Garrison has said to me very
 often as he pointed in the direc-
 tion of Cape Kennedy, where a
 person who works in the criteria
 jacking orange juice and here
 makes a thousand a month, and he
 said to me, "Do you really think
 they're going to let me bring all
 that down without protest?"
 (laughter)

FP: Garrison said that?
 MS: Yes, he's developed a rich,
 black humor. Jim is an artist.
 Jim is a playwright for one thing,
 he's a great writer. If I had it
 with me—I have a book, the fore-
 word of which he wrote, called
 CRIME, LAW and CORRUPTION,
 which is sheer poetry. As the book
 said to me often, "No lawyer pur-
 suing the mandate of evidence
 has ever moved people the way
 an artist can." He really believes
 in presenting things emotionally.
 I think that after all those critics
 of the Warren report with all that
 detail when he came along and
 made a speech at the Century
 Plaza, that's when people were
 crying, demanding really more pen-
 alty to have the label put on

cently while campaigning for re-
 election down in New Orleans, he
 went into the tenth district which
 is largely colored in New Or-
 leans, and he said "ignorance
 of what you may hear, I will not
 take one step backward in my
 prosecution of the people that
 murdered the President." He
 said, "I'm referring to the best
 friend you people ever had, Jack
 Kennedy." And the people broke
 into cheers. These people were
 not sophisticated as we are in
 Los Angeles. Here we've already
 figured out a way to abandon any-
 one who isn't pro nazi and work
 out a rationale that it's his fault.

FP: You know, that seems to be
 a natural penchant of the people.

MS: You find me a liberal to-
 night and he'll tell you, the
 worst thing in American history
 George Wallace is an inaugura-
 ted man, that Barry Goldwater
 had a lot of soundness to his
 views or at the very least was
 sincere, that Richard Nixon is
 working— in other words, the ge-
 neral will reserve his scorn for
 his candidate? Won't he say, well,
 he'll say, he's a genuine im-
 passioned man.

MORT SAIL INTERVIEW: The rise of Fascism in the U.S.

(continued from last week)

PATL EBBELLE

MS: The liberals can't say they don't know the Warren Report was a fraud. There's been too much evidence to the contrary. Yet, their response has been to turn against the critics of the Warren Report, and say, "Well, we really don't need to know."

FP: Sad to say, that seems to be a natural pendant of the people in Western movies, the people always rally behind the good guy and crucify the bad guys. But in real life, it usually goes the other way.

MS: Yes, that's very true, because as fascism grows in the United States, as it moves through large communities and it works its coercion, people are going along with it. In the case of liberals a great many people and the progressive elements in the community for instance are Jewish, and they're going along. That means they're playing the same game they played with Hitler. They think they can buy out and they're in error. The people who came for Jack Kennedy's skull are coming for our fifteen minutes later. You don't have to be a prophet to see the handwriting on the wall. But these people are making that same mistake. I now understand the problem of the Jews in Germany in the Thirties. I understand it by seeing what's happening to my own country. It's getting worse, and it is said very often, we do not live in the same country we were born in, which I think is quite accurate. And I think that the... I also understand a great deal more about the Scriptures now than I did. If, indeed, Jesus existed, he probably had died him in zero B.C.

and ignore the problem and try to go on the stage and of course the whole thing will collapse. And, of course, the whole thing is collapsing. The irony of fascism is that it has never won. The most successful fascist in history is Hitler, who had twelve years, which is less years than Franklin D. Roosevelt had, a virtuous man in my eyes in my lifetime, so they don't even come near the attainments of virtuous men. But the trouble is, when they go down, they take everybody with them. It's a collective offense. When this goes under we're going to lose too. They're going to blow us up too. I can't laugh at them from any Olympian height. We can't say, as the cartoonist used to say in the FREE PRESS a couple of years ago, "The hell with

you scolding at me now, as the liberals scolded me for many years." He talks about Elsworth Bunker and Adolph Berle—they laughed at him. But I would remind them today the word of Jesus is heard everywhere in the land, but nobody can hear the trumpets of the legions of Rome. He's a moderate man. He looks upon Castro as more of an extremist than we do. So if a man like that couldn't die with by the intelligence community, you can imagine where they stand.

FP: He's hardly a radical. He's a moderate, democratic social reformist.

MS: That's right.

FP: But getting back to what you were rifting on before about she vanished. Nobody can find her now on the case. The man who was seized at Passport Control is not the same man who was tried here. It's obvious that it was a conspiracy and that it was an ordered conspiracy in the case of Martin Luther King. Also King's brother, who suddenly is deemed an alcoholic by the press. And now we come to the role of the press in America which I think is really important. The press is an accessory to these murders, because if it wasn't sure that the press would not audit its actions, it would not move so gingerly. The Warren Report was done in such laudatory fashion because they were sure, it was prearranged, that nobody would bother them. When Garrison tries Shaw for thirty-seven

writes?" So Garrison played it straight, he said "So they?" And the guy said "No, I've been at the TIMES eleven years, and no one has ever told me what to write. Although I will admit that I know pretty much what to turn in." To which Garrison retorted, "Then no one has to tell you what to write." So it saves the government a lot of calls. I believe that most men are so corrupt now that they are unconscious members of a conspiracy of ignorance.

FP: They anticipate the orders, MS: Absolutely.

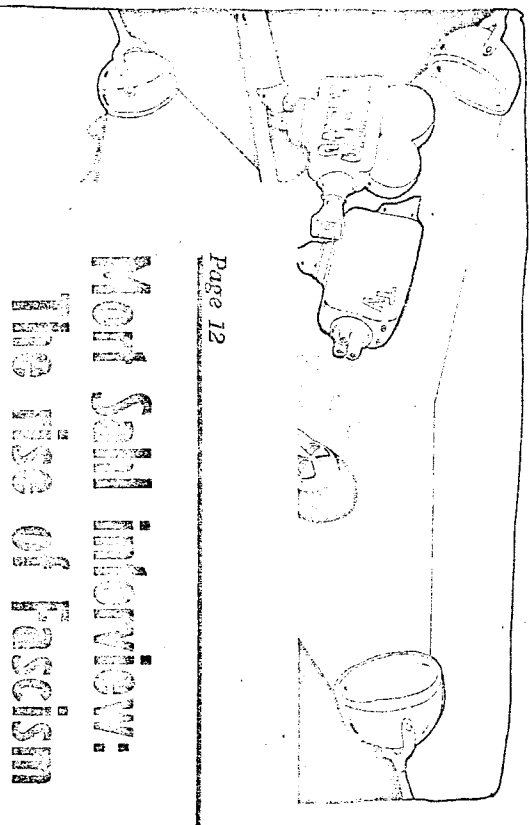
FP: Or rather, they anticipate their own firing and move the other way.

MS: In my own difficulty in this city and in this industry, I do not believe that every person was reached to cover me up or to silence me. I don't think they had to be. It's the reasonable men who perspire a lot, who want to please whoever is in authority.

FP: And knew which side their bread is buttered on.

MS: You bet! They have an unerring nose. Jack Kennedy's body was still warm when they were busy deferring to Lyndon Johnson. That's exactly what it's all about. The same men were going to back Teddy Kennedy for the presidency, but before his suit was dry, they knew that he was part of the moral character of Richard Nixon and could never approach the White House and be our leader. Absolutely. That's what we're talking about. It sounds like we've got them psyched out. I know the nature of the beast, because I've been to the barrows too many times. I smell the pack the same way I can tell when any spook approaches us, which they try more often than not.

FP: Speaking of the media, you

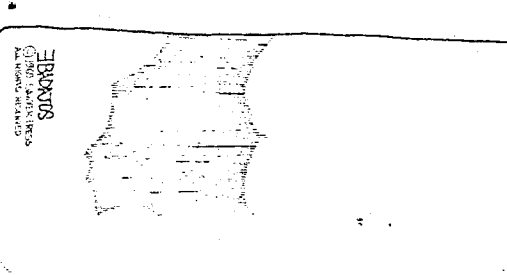


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Mort Sail Interview: The Rise of Fascism

...a great deal more about the Scriptures now than I did. If, indeed, Jesus existed, the people that did him in were the people who knew he was correct. But he was always coming over and trapping on their door when they were having a party. Telling them... and he'd come in and he'd say, "What are you doing?" and he'd say, "Here I am in bed with my mother," and he'd say, "Well, you can't do that," and they'd say, "We could until you came over." It seemed alright until you came here and looked upon us with scorn. Got him out of here. They were always covering their ears when he was around. Now he couldn't have been an evangelist, because no one wants to crucify Billy Graham or Oral Roberts or Mr. Hargis or Cardinal MacLachy. Well, that's exactly what's happened here. Now when Garrison went into court, what could he do? Could he really say to the middle class people on the jury, "Here is a bizarre and elaborate scheme that will make G. J. Nigger look like Alice in Wonderland." Could the people digest that? Well, that's almost incredible. To put on trial an honorable, twenty-five-year old intelligence community in America—you can't render that in one courtroom setting. When the summations were made to the jury, Shaw's chief counsel, Mr. Diamond said, "If you find this man guilty, you're indicting our culture way of life. You're saying everyone in the government lies." In other words, you're writing out a prescription.

FP: He was right. Ms. So they had to decide. And Mr. Garrison said, "You'll have to make a choice whether you want to live in Mr. Diamond's America or mine." And obviously they decided that it's very difficult. Because once you spell out what's wrong, then of course, it's much as if you were writing a play. If you assert to me what's wrong with the second act, I've got to go back to the hotel and rewrite it, or we can't get to the third act. So the only thing I can do is be completely irrational and say, "I don't agree with you, but you're a ball of a second act."



The Rise of Fascism

(Continued from Page 3)

It's had on them is more. I feel like I've been fed through a penicillin drip. But they're all happy and prosperous, they feel good. They're cooking with the system. What are they really saying? How could no newspaper in America report anything? How do they all know that they're not supposed to? How can you get a consensus like that? What are these four hundred newspapers in America? Why can't there be one exception?

FP: We tried. Ms: It's extremely difficult. I know the people just don't like the message that Garrison

you and your bomb. Well, it's your bomb too. They're going to take us with them.

FP: Yes, they're going to take us with them and we're all going to end up in rubble like the people in Berlin did.

Ms: We can't win it. Now, as Juan Bosch says in an excellent book called *PENTAGONISM*, he says he thinks that the American people has been colonized by the Pentagon. He says we are not governed by the people we elect so it is not our option to change the government. He says it's too late for Americans, but the rest of the world doesn't want to die. Whether we and the Russians want to die or not, the rest of the world doesn't so. And so, he says, there will be a network of countries that will finally quarantine the United States and the Soviet Union in the interest of not blowing up the planet in a chain reaction. And he says at the end of the book in a very telling phrase, "I can hear the people of the world-

birge. He's telling them that they've neglected their own middle-class, and it's coming down. They don't want to hear that. So they send the telegraph boy away because they object to the contents of the wire, as Gene MacCarthy used to say.

FP: He's telling them that their whole society is rotten from top to bottom and that they are an inoperable part of it.

Ms: And they don't choose to hear that. They don't want to hear that. What they want to do, the CBS newsmen want to do, is a documentary on perhaps the differentities of laboratory work for the Navy on an alternate Sunday,

James Earl Ray, or at least one of the James Earl Rays, whom many people say is not the same man who was allegedly on the scene at the killing of King, the FBI seemed to be operating in London as authoritatively as they do in New York and Los Angeles.

Ms: I was in London in April, England is to the United States what Czechoslovakia is to Russia. Right now, the FBI and the CIA operate openly there. When the FBI visited and terrorized Ray's lawyer at the Pax Hotel in Flatiron in London they talked with other disgraced—I mean there wasn't even the

disruption of eight days this if you... I mean they threatened her as if she was a... as if she was an American traitor. You see, we've even come to accept it here. (Laughter) That's the point, completely disregard for her rights. Peter Dwanay...

FP: Speaking of the media, you were telling me the other night, you were talking about how some of the high-ranking CIA men have actually been instructed as top executives in the media. Ms: Well, Drew Pearson reported that the head of the Peace Corps is a former CIA man. The question is, what does "former" mean? They're deeply embedded in our society. I don't know if they ever leave.

FP: Is there any such thing as a former CIA man? Ms: Precisely. And also I think that Bernie Spindel, one of the electronic experts, in fact the number one guy in birging in the country, says that there are guys in the wire services who work for the agency. I don't know whether or not they tell their employers they work for them, but they work for the Agency (CIA) too. And they'll pull off any story or they'll kill it if it's not in the national interest. You see, this is cold, rational treason. It's line-of-duty treason because they're doing it for their country. I'm sure that they collected all these generals and all those honorable men that signed those reports by telling them that they're doing it for the good of the country. I'm sure that the fascists who killed Jack Kennedy think that they took the country out of the hands of a reckless young Communist. I think by now they're sure of it because nobody contests it. I'm sure they think that they did the right thing, not that it bothers me much. But the media, to get back to the media, the reporters, especially the intellectual are all the kind of Hebrail who know what they're not supposed to touch. I mean, how much do people have to know, when they see the Chicago convention, and they see their heads opened up by the cops, and then a year later they're yelling about law and order and electing who they elect, then you know the condition the people are in. Because I've been through—all the changes I've been through watching this—these people have been through too, and the only effect

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Los Angeles Free Press

They want to say "it's a racist society." After all, a good example is the thing with Angela Davis at UCLA. Which people want to talk about—you notice that the liberals would much rather talk about, "Well, she's a black woman, and is this a racist move?" But they don't much want to defend her right to belong to the Communist Party.

FP: Well, you know, they used to say, "regardless of race, color, or creed." They don't say "creed" anymore.

MS: They don't.

FP: Isn't that interesting. Why don't they? A creed is a more dangerous thing than a race or color.

MS: Because the country, for one thing, is being ruled by people who don't believe in anything.

FP: They have no creed and they're very much afraid of anyone who has.

MS: That's evident. And it's a betrayal of what the country's about. It's a betrayal of Tom Jefferson, certainly. There's a very telling line in the movie *Easy Rider*. In fact, I think the only telling line, when Jack Nicholson says, you know, "this used to be a pretty good country." That line is right out of Frank Capra in 1936. It's true. It was, well, look what you have. Truman and Johnson both represent themselves as the continuity of leadership from Roosevelt and Kennedy respectively, and it's a complete reversal of foreign policy. It's a complete betrayal, in fact. And then Nixon comes along as an alternative to Johnson and what he is in continuity with Johnson. And that's how they lie to the people. The President has no power any more. The power in our generation has shifted from Senate to the White House to the Pentagon. The President goes to the airport and meets people. Like Golda Meir. That's what he does. And only that at a respectable distance as a matter of fact. The power is in the Pentagon and the adjuncts of the intelligence agencies. The difference is that when Senator Fulbright

says seventy percent of the CIA budget is spent in the United States that means since their job is overthrowing governments the one they want to overthrow is this one. And they did. They did a darn good job. The irony in the Garrison case—one of the ironies—is that if you had no evidence prior to the Warren report. The hypergalvanized action of the CIA to button up the case assuming that one of its people was involved, as in the case of Shaw, how they sprang into action to stop the trial would immediately bring suspicion down around them and the agency has to be covered to such a

point that you saw, not only does it implicate itself in the Garrison case but you saw recently with President Nixon he emascuated General Abrams because of the agency, because the choice was that or the agency.

FP: Abrams wanted to prosecute those guys.

MS: That's right. He didn't want murder to become an everyday thing in the United States Army. He may be a little late, but at least there's a little idealism there as far as I can see. And General Abrams was cut off at the knees by the President of the United States on orders of Richard Helms. And the media told us that. We were told additionally the next night by ABC news that one hundred Americans shot down because they're bombing Laos cannot be released because the United States cannot negotiate for them because the United States has never acknowledged that they are there. Not only that, but the CIA has told the Pentagon that it has its own recovery operation to bring them back. They speak about it openly now. One of the hallmarks of this era is that there's no sham any more. They're openly saying what they're doing. They're quite defiant. In other words, you have Tom Reddin on the air. You don't have a guy like Reddin handing the items to a guy who looks like an arrow shirt ad to read them. You have TV Guide saying "Smothers Brothers are fired; it's about time," instead of playing impartial although active behind the scenes.

FP: And aren't some of the top executives of the TV networks company men, CIA men?

MS: Well, you know, the question is, how much do they tell you? The news departments are what I'm interested in. Stringers. I'd like to know where they come from. But as far as CIA personnel sometimes they come along and openly tell you. For instance, at ABC here, there's a commentator named Mary Gray who says he's a CIA operative. He's very proud of that background. You find more and more of it. Dr. Henry Kissinger working for Nixon, I notice that six of his staff left and went back to the CIA. What did they do for the President that fitted them for service with the CIA?

FP: Maybe they had some background there before, to qualify them.

MS: So, you know, the question is, the network involvement is very odd. The first documentary done against Garrison was done by NBC. Frank McGee narrated it. It was written with inaccuracies which NBC is certainly not famous for, they are a top organization but they went ahead and took the chance, all the things about "Who is Clay Bertrand?" etc.

FP: They answered the questions for you.

MS: They answered the questions. They answered them inaccurately. Now this NBC was also involved with helping one of the witnesses who was a fugitive from justice in Louisiana, Gordon Novell, to hide out in Columbus, Ohio. I don't know why a network would want to involve itself in that way. The CBS contribution, of course, was the four hour report.

FP: In which they also asked the questions and gratuitously furnished the answers.

MS: Most freedom I've seen so far has been ABC. Bill Bonds locally and Jim Lawrence were very favorable to Garrison.

FP: Jim Lawrence is a very excellent newsman.

MS: I'm glad to hear it corroborated, because from all I could see, he seems to be. I called Bonds after one of the programs to thank him for the objectivity. Because I think it takes some courage.

You see, one, when there's a wave of social action like the marches for the Vietnamese War or marches for equal rights or something, then the government has to do something. There's never been a groundswell of public opinion for opening the public archives or to correct the Warren report. Therefore, the government never did anything. People used to say, "What good would one letter do, or what good would marching do?" Well, it did a lot of good. It got rid of Lyndon Johnson.

FP: We would be in China now if it hadn't been for those marches.

MS: That's right. That's right. That's exactly where we'd be. If Fulbright hadn't kept that up and

(Please turn to Page 18)

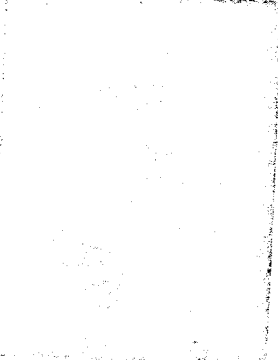
MORT SAHL

The power in our generation has shifted from Senate to White House to the Pentagon . . .

(Continued from Page 12)
 the kids hadn't got their heads opened in the streets, we would be on the mainland of China. No doubt about that. Correct. By the same token, by these people looking the other way and saying we don't need to know, they've given the government all the license it needs to go the rest of the yardage. They gave them the first thirty yards and they took the other seventy. They don't want to know. They don't want to know. In other words, when I risked my career, and I did, and that's fifteen years in show business, you know, I made a million dollars a year, and I go up and I say, "I want to tell you people tonight on the Johnny Carson show that the President was killed by people in the United States government," the fact that they don't take up weapons and do something or write to their Congressmen or at least worry about it in the morning but merely hide and say, "We'd better get out of the way because they're going to hit him and some of the blood might get on our white duck trousers . . ."

American people don't know. I went on every station I could get on and I told them. I stuck my neck out, and they know now. I don't think there's anyone in this country who believes the Warren report.

FP: I think they knew on November 22, 1963, when that unconvincing Chief Curry and Captain Fritz stood in front of the



television station cameras and CBS and NBC asked them—what? an hour and a half after the President was shot?—they said, "We have the assassin, he is in custody, the case is closed." Wasn't that about an hour and a half after he was shot? And the newsmen asked, "Well, aren't you going to pick up other suspects; aren't you going to interview other suspicious people?" And they said, "Oh, no, no, no. The case is closed. The case is closed."

I don't think the American public bought that, on the day he was shot. I couldn't buy it. It sounded like a used car salesman telling me that they really didn't put something in the oil or they didn't switch batteries.
 MS: You know, I brought the case on the Johnny Carson show a year ago last January, and then I arranged with Carson to present Garrison the following week. And Garrison went on to do the entire hour and a half, subject to about fifty-five interruptions by Carson. At that time on the air we showed a photo of ten men in chains being led out of freight yards by the Dallas police and Garrison, with his customary wit, said to Carson, "Which one is the long assassin?" (Laughter) Carson responded to this by running around the New York area saying, "Garrison is a charlatan," and by barring me from his program, although we gave him one of the highest ratings he's ever had, if not the highest. It's ironic who sells corn flakes in America. Capitalism was helped that night. And yet, capitalism hates Jim Garrison. But that same thing happened with Roosevelt.

FP: You know, when Garrison came on Carson's show, he really turned the tables on him. At first they were heckling him, and towards the end of the show he had them applauding him.
 MS: Yes, I know that.

FP: And heckling Carson.
 MS: He had no idea that Carson was an enemy. He thought Car-

son was fair. He got knocked out of the ring because his back was turned. Then he climbed back in halfway through. I was a prime mover, I must say, immodestly, in that whole thing—in booking him, in talking to him before he went on, and in being in his corner during that time. Carson was briefed by NBC, legal. He suddenly knew all about the report. And you know, Carson was supposed to have a member of the Warren Commission on to debate with Garrison. No one from the government would appear with the report. And during the thirty-eight months I've been involved in this case, all the time I was on the air, no one from the federal government would come on, to represent the report. Did you know that? Even though we asked them to be on the various programs. Because it's indefensible. It would embarrass anyone.

FP: And if they had a case, I'm sure they would have, if they had a defensible, plausible case.

MS: Of course. There's all kinds of hamstringing that's going on now. There're indications now in the case that the Treasury has been brought into it because people who have volunteered to be witnesses for Garrison have suddenly had the Treasury office going on them—income tax audits. Now, I talked to the two Treasury men in New York who were harassing me, not about my income tax but about the case, and I said to them, I said, "I have very few illusions about your role in this. The President's been murdered and we have reason to believe people in the government did it." And they said to me, "Well, we're not CIA, we're Treasury." Which certainly clarified the three branches of government thing.

FP: When you were on television, a lot of people found it hard to understand what you were talking about when you criticized the all-American, plastic, middle-class woman.

MS: Guys say to me, Mort, why don't you forget all that and have some fun. I'll tell you something. They're not having fun. Those guys are not having a good time. They're not making it out there.

FP: We might be late for work.
 MS: That immediately shot me down. I have no constituency. I have no liberals and I have no conservatives, and we certainly have no Social Democrats. We have nothing. We've just got . . . But what can you do? You can't join the cannibals. We know what's right and we know what's wrong. You don't have to join them. So many have joined them. I think in that sense it's very late. It's the eleventh hour in America. Because when you reveal the facts and no one takes action and you know you're in trouble, you can't tell me that nobody knows. I am the only voice in the entertainment media—any noted performer—who has spoken up on that issue. Not one other person. Paul Newman is a noted liberal, a man who testified before Congress recently, demanded a new Cabinet post, Secretary of Peace. He felt impelled to go to Washington and to suggest that to the Congress. Paul Newman filmed for several months a movie called "The Hall of Mirrors" in New Orleans. He didn't seek out the District Attorney to find out whether he's a gross liar. Or a maniac. Or powerful-hungry.

FP: He stood clear of that.
 MS: He never went near him. No one went near him. In all that time he has retained his virginity in that sense. I'm the only one he knows from this area. I bet he would have known a lot if that man had been found guilty. He'd probably be Vice President of the United States now. Everybody would be cheering, and those reasonable men we were talking about earlier would be there to genuflect and shake his hand. Which is not my concern anyway. That's the way of the world. It always has been. But what I am concerned primarily about is that when you reveal the facts to the people and they're not outraged by them, it's too late for those people. You can't tell me that the