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January 17, 1968

Editor, TIME  
Time-Life Building  
Rockefeller Center  
New York, New York

Sir:

TIME (December 22) should heed Ethel Waters and keep its "eye on the Sparrow". That eminent warden of All Saints, John Sparrow, is so exquisitely ignorant of the fact of the Kennedy assassination and its dubious official investigation that he invents, then quotes, non-existent witnesses. His statement that "Mr. Weisberg (contents) himself with a ceaseless small-fire of rhetorical questions" is a gross and deliberate lie, made no less shameful by his own secret record of having prevented British publication of my first book, WHITEWASH, in early 1965, and his pretense that my three subsequently published books do not exist. I have challenged him to debate me, face-to-face or in writing, on his work, mine, or any combination of his choosing. I predict he will fink out.

John P. Roche has established (TIME, January 12), that ADA's gain is LBJ's loss. In writing that "every one of the plot theories must necessarily rely on the inconceivable connivance of one man: Robert F. Kennedy, then Attorney General", LBJ's adviser attempts RFK's political assassination. If Roche knows enough about this enormously complicated subject to express even a gent's-room opinion, he certainly knows that the "dearly beloved brother" of a previous White House assault properly disassociated himself from active control over the investigation, for which I expressed personal gratitude in PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES (page 9: "...for it cannot now be said that the official investigation was dominated by a vindictive spirit."). J. Edgar Hoover told the Warren Commission he was the boss (WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVER-UP, p.223): "I have read all the requests ... I have read and signed all the replies ... I myself go over these to see that we haven't missed anything ..."

The late President had such friends he had no need of enemies. His successor has such advisers.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT (1965)  
WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVER-UP  
PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: SUPPRESSED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PICTURES  
OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS: CASE FOR CONSPIRACY WITH THE CIA



whose wheat harvest will leap 25% this year, and to Pakistan. If the winter rains are right, Pakistan will become self-sufficient in wheat next April for the first time. A new U.S. Department of Agriculture "doublecross" hybrid has made Kenya self-sufficient in corn. In Southeast Asia, the newly developed IR-8 rice strain has been tested in Thailand, South Viet Nam, Indonesia, Burma and the Philippines and in some cases increased the annual yield twentyfold. The world's food experts are taking heart, though the sense of urgency remains.

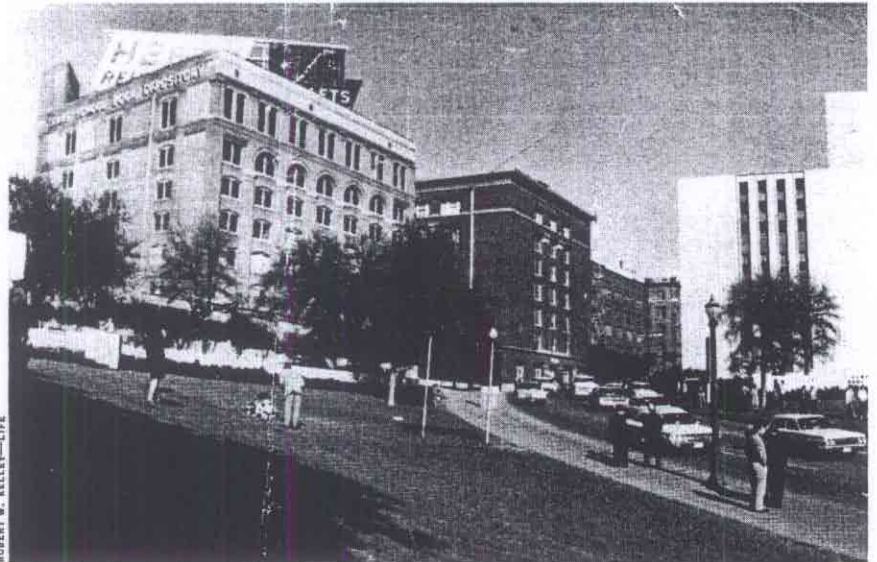
The U.S. continues to feel this urgency deeply because it has been the world's granary under the Food for Peace (now Food for Freedom) law, which since 1954 has exported \$15 billion worth of food. Envisioned as a hybrid of humanitarianism, diplomacy and hard-nosed dumping of surplus crops, the overseas program by 1971 will require payments in dollars rather than soft currencies, and ostensibly will make nations push their own food supply. Meanwhile, laboratories continue to cultivate new ideas. The latest range from weeding row crops with flame throwers and laying asphalt hardpans for instant upland rice paddies all the way to the science-fiction realm. One scheme being seriously examined in pilot plants involves making protein food from oil.

## THE ASSASSINATION

### The Mystery Makers

John Hanbury Angus Sparrow, a congenital skeptic and distinguished Oxford don whose obiter dicta have embraced such disparate subjects as the Profumo Affair, Lady Chatterley and the plagiarisms of a 17th century Polish poet, last week published his scholar's evaluation of the Warren Commission Report and its critics. A Latinist, an attorney by training and, for the last 15 years, warden of All Souls College—one of the most eminent posts in British academe—wartime Guardsman Sparrow, 61, concluded empirically that the Warren Report on the assassination must stand and that the "demonologists" who so often attack it have, without exception, forfeited serious intellectual consideration.

Sparrow's trenchant verdict on the assassination and the countless conspiracy theories that it engendered was rendered in an 18,000-word article in the London Times *Literary Supplement*. "While the assassination itself has till now remained the focus of attention," he wrote, "future historians are likely to be more interested in its aftermath. As time goes by, it will become increasingly evident that the real mystery concerns not the doings of the protagonists in Dallas during the fatal week, but the subsequent performance of the mystery makers themselves and the success of their campaign. One is tempted to ask the very question that they themselves raise about the murders in Dal-



ROBERT W. KELLEY—LIFE

DALLAS' FAMED GRASSY KNOLL (LEFT) & BOOK DEPOSITORY (BACKGROUND)

Like the Hydra—cut off one head and a flock of others grow.

las: are they to be explained as the result of some complex antecedent combination, or were they the work of obsessed, unbalanced men, each acting independently?"

Sparrow does not believe so, but to his mind, the errors in the critics' reasoning are obvious. He observed that "they put forward good points and bad alike, mingle discredited assertions with valid evidence, and make up for weak links in their hypotheses by asseveration and abuse of the Dallas police, the FBI and the commission."

**Oswald Alone.** Specifically, Sparrow zeroes in on the elaborate theoretical situations the critics have constructed to bolster their contention that the assassination was a consummately scripted plot. One such thesis is that a sniper—not necessarily Lee Harvey Oswald—fired at the President from the Texas School Book Depository at the very moment that one or several other assassins fired from the grassy knoll overlooking the highway.

"While it may seem an extraordinary feat for Oswald to have hit his target in two out of three rapid-fire shots," argues Sparrow, it is more difficult yet "to believe that two men more than 100 yards apart and unable to see or communicate with each other, could have synchronized their fire so perfectly. And it is hardest of all to imagine that conspirators would have allowed the success of their plan to depend on such a feat of synchronization."

Sparrow also scoffs at the idea that a gunman could have fired from an exposed position and "got clean away in full view of the public." It was Oswald alone, he concludes, who killed the President. As for the demonologists, Sparrow marks them thus:

► **Joachim Joesten** (*Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy*): "Mr. Joesten's story (that there were two conspiracies, one to kill the President, the other to kill Governor John B. Connally of Texas) is extravagant and incredible, his book a

compound of bad English, bad temper and bad taste."

► **Mark Lane** (*Rush to Judgment*) and **Harold Weisberg** (*Whitewash*): These advocates adopted "a method of controversy that does not expose them to direct refutation: they offer no connected account of what they think occurred. Mr. Weisberg contenting himself with a ceaseless small-fire of rhetorical questions, Mr. Lane with a steady barrage of innuendo."

► **Edward Epstein** (*Inquest*): "Short, clear, extremely well-argued. But his book shows how a clever man can unwittingly allow *parti pris* to vitiate the building up and presentation of a case, so that a chain of reasoning leads to a conclusion that is in fact ill-founded. In short, Mr. Epstein has proved about himself what he sought to prove about the commission."

► **District Attorney Jim Garrison**: "Now what about the 'Jolly Green Giant' of New Orleans? He is a quick-witted, forceful, ambitious man, with an engagingly frank and easy manner, but seriously lacking in judgment."

"How is it then," wonders Sparrow, "that people have fallen for the demonologists? The story proves, and has proved twice over, the truth of the old adage—*populus vult decipi*: the public is very ready to be deceived." One reason, of course, is that "misrepresentation is too often like the Hydra. Cut off one of its heads and a score of others take its place."

In consequence, Warden Sparrow believes the U.S. will long be besmirched by a "stain deeper than the crime itself: that left by the appetite that could swallow scurrilities like *MacBird!* (for which Mr. Robert Lowell claims 'a kind of genius'), by the gullibility of the American public, and by the recklessness with which that gullibility has been exploited, under a law that allows almost unlimited calumny of public officials, at whatever cost to the reputation of the innocent."

N.B. Sell the "you 5" letter by Lane

N.B. Criffin also in his "Jolly Green Giant" Report?

Sparrow's literary et al. qualifications no further standing wouldn't at all. There is a massive etc. of authors, publishers, etc.



## LETTERS

### When There's Hope, There's Life

Sir: Reading your cover story on Bob Hope [Dec. 22] was like opening the very best Christmas gift. In a world torn by war and famine and racial tensions, it's gratifying to know that we can still have hope—and Hope.

JOHN WILLIAM DOWLER

San Francisco

Sir: Adlai Stevenson once said, "I venture to suggest that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." Surely no less can be said of Bob Hope, an American among Americans.

(SGT.) K. WILLIAM AVERY, U.S.A.F.  
Chanute A.F.B., Ill.

Sir: Your excellent story on Bob Hope, one of the world's greatest humanitarians, did not mention that for the past nine years he has served as honorary national chairman of the National Parkinson Foundation. He has been a staunch supporter in our continuing quest for the cause of, and cure of, Parkinson's disease. Not content with giving us his valuable time and talent, Bob has for a number of years given us an annual personal check for \$10,000. When the big breakthrough comes through research on Parkinson's disease, as surely it will in the not too distant future, much of the credit for financing that research must go to our friend Bob Hope.

(MRS.) JEANNE LEVEY  
National Chairman

National Parkinson Foundation  
Miami

### Not When, But What

Sir: "What Negotiations in Viet Nam Might Mean" [Dec. 22], is one of the most realistic and constructive analyses of the present situation in Viet Nam that I have read.

For too long we have been overly preoccupied with the question as to *when*, *whether* and *how* we can get to a negotiating table. All of this discussion tends to persuade the enemy that our position is weaker than it is and creates suspicions as to our motives, as he feels he received the worst of the bargain struck in Geneva in 1954.

Looking beyond *when* we will negotiate to what is negotiable, and talking in specific terms about the kind of points that can and should be resolved, might even help bring about discussions and cause both sides, the South Vietnamese government and the V.C., to see that some gains can be made as against the terrible price being paid by endlessly continuing a conflict that cannot bring total military or political victory to either side.

CHARLES H. PERCY  
United States Senate

Tel Aviv

Sir: Your Essay raises some serious questions about a political compromise with the Viet Cong. You suggest a coalition government and recognition of the V.C. as a political party, indicating that we might be able to "use" the V.C. to stabilize South Viet Nam and to transform the military struggle into a political one. The greatest mistake of the past in Viet Nam has been to underestimate the Communists, whether Viet Minh or Viet Cong. They are widespread and militarily strong—why should we think they would lay down their arms to become the "loyal op-

position" in a republican government in "the unliberated South"? Only a strong and stable government and a politically mature people can successfully compromise with the Communists and incorporate them into the regime. Only when the Communists have no weapons, or have been disarmed, will they be forced to compete in the political arena. And only one completely ignorant of the writings of Chairman Mao—who urges that the village and countryside must be captured and controlled before the city may be attacked—would advocate allowing the Viet Cong to administer legally, in the name of South Viet Nam, the vast rural areas it now controls.

MARK E. SULLIVAN

Gambier, Ohio

### The Eyes Have It

Sir: Perhaps politically the protesters are right, we shouldn't be here in Viet Nam [Dec. 15]; but morally we are right. Anyone who has been here and seen a village headman's death by V.C. terrorism knows it. And we can feel it communicated through the attitudes of the Vietnamese people and in the eyes of the children. Those who haven't been here can't know these feelings. But ask any of us over here, especially those of us in the hospitals to whom this war must mean the most, and the answer will invariably be the same: "We are right." The Communists have chosen this as a battlefield, and we will defeat them at their own game, in their yard. Peace is beautiful, but we've had to fight for it before, and we're fighting for it now. The only way out is to fulfill South Viet Nam's request to live in freedom and peace. Have they asked too much?

(L/CPL) ANDREW D. WOLL, U.S.M.C.  
F.P.O. San Francisco

### Equal Time

Sir: Really! Devoting almost an entire page to John Sparrow's TIME-honored but otherwise discredited defense of the Warren Commission Report [Dec. 22]. When I lectured at Oxford, Sparrow refused to debate with me, stating that he was unqualified to defend the commission despite his many efforts along these lines. When I completed my two-hour talk, I asked him if there was anything to which he could take exception and he said, quite publicly, that there was not. He then remained silent for more than a year. Now he has again repeated his "conclusions" in support of the commission.

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Oh, yes: he has now added to his previous statements his new finding that the death of John F. Kennedy was not so bad as the fact that some are trying to discover who killed him.

His reckless, ill-informed assaults—based almost exclusively upon his abysmal ignorance of the facts and his own prejudice—are quite transparent to those familiar with the evidence.

MARK LANE

Nykobing, Denmark

### He Was There

Sir: On behalf of the people of Australia, I would like to thank your President for his generous gesture on short notice in attending the funeral of our late Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt [Dec. 29]. The messages of condolence from your Government and the people of your great nation at such a time is an inspiration to the people of Australia. There are still people and indeed nations in this world that from time to time do appreciate the generosity and the repeated acts of good will that generate from your great country.

MURRAY BYRNE, M.P.

Ballarat, Australia

Sir: President Johnson demonstrated something more than a presidential duty. He showed that warmth and friendship can play a part in international politics. Can a mourner lessen one's grief? Perhaps not, but for some inexplicable reason he helps somehow. He doesn't do anything, he's just there, that's all.

R. A. CLANCY

Melbourne

### Unrest & Recrimination

Sir: Your article on rest & recuperation for servicemen [Dec. 22] was interesting, but the pictures were heartbreaking. How horrible for a wife to see full color pictures of what is available to her husband on an R & R. My husband is a rated major in the U.S.A.F. and will be in Viet Nam this time next year. A year of separation is hard enough in itself, but to have it rubbed in as to what he could be doing is enough to cause depression and worry on our part. Granted, they need a rest and recuperation period and are fortunate to get one, but the wives could use one too.

WINNIE POTEETE

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sir: Were it not for my twoscore and four years (and those six other little mouths to keep filled), I'd be sorely tempted to trot down to the nearest recruiting



his own name from primary ballots.

On the other hand, Rockefeller hinted he might yet be available, albeit late in the nominating process. He repeated a previous statement that he would "have to face it" if a genuine draft materialized. Then he went an inch farther: "I can't conceive of any circumstances occurring in which I would be a candidate prior to the convention."

**Assertive Non-Candidacy.** Thus Rockefeller continues locked in his passive role. Only some cataclysmic development—such as Romney's voluntary withdrawal—can propel him into the early primaries. Nor does Rockefeller seem very much interested in shifting from Romney to Senator Charles Percy of Illinois.

Yet large as Nixon's lead seems at the moment, there remain obstacles. Romney plans 21 days of campaigning in New Hampshire beginning this week, and personal stumping is his strong suit. California's Ronald Reagan seems to be waiting on the right for Nixon to stumble, and meanwhile is making the most of his assertive non-candidacy. He will allow his name to appear on some primary ballots (though not in New Hampshire), perhaps benefit from write-ins elsewhere, and do some traveling to keep in trim. Next week he plans to speak at party fund-raising events in Tulsa, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and St. Louis, make an address in New York and visit Washington. Nixon returns from his holiday this week to receive a Boy Scout award in New York and appear at a Richmond Chamber of Commerce meeting and on the Washington and Lee University campus. He is expected to make a formal announcement of his candidacy before his next scheduled appearance in New Hampshire on Feb. 3. Then the long hot winter will have begun in earnest.

NEAL BOENZI—THE NEW YORK TIMES



JONES & WIFE IN NEWARK Courtroom for a stage.

## THE ASSASSINATION

### Inconceivable Connivance

One scholar who has never given much credence to the theory that a conspiracy was behind John F. Kennedy's assassination is John P. Roche, former Brandeis dean, ex-national chairman of the Americans for Democratic Action, and currently Lyndon Johnson's "intellectual-in-residence." For the benefit of those who accept the theory, he cites Roche's law: "Those who can conspire haven't got the time; those who do conspire haven't got the talent." Last week, in a letter to the London Times Literary Supplement congratulating Oxford Don John Sparrow for his incisive, 18,000-word defense of the Warren Commission Report (TIME, Dec. 22), Roche raised a point that has been overlooked—or ignored—by the report's myriad critics.

"Every one of the plot theories," wrote Roche, "must necessarily rely on the inconceivable connivance of one key man: Robert F. Kennedy, then Attorney General of the U.S. Any fair analysis of Senator Robert Kennedy's abilities, his character, and of the resources at his disposal, would indicate that if there was a conspiracy, he would have pursued its protagonists to the ends of the earth."

Though the conspiracy theory may be gospel to "a priesthood of marginal paranoids," said Roche, it is also "an assault on the sanity of American society, and I believe in its fundamental sanity." He concludes: "I don't mind people being paranoiac, but don't make me carry their luggage."

## RACES

### Curtains for LeRoi

LeRoi Jones, 33, the snarling laureate of Negro revolt, has distilled his rage against white America in poems and plays whose spectrum has room only for black. "The Black Artist must teach the White Eyes their deaths," Jones writes. And when Newark, his birthplace, was aflame with Negro rioting last July, Jones appeared bent on augmenting his words with action. Heading into the eye of the violence, police testified, Jones had concealed a brace of pearl-handled .32-cal. revolvers beneath the dashboard of his green camper bus and under the folds of his multihued African dashike tunic.

Last week, with a New Jersey courtroom for a stage, Jones demonstrated that he had lost none of his talent for theatrical invective. "You are not a righteous judge!" the defendant bellowed at Essex County Judge Leon Kapp, who sentenced him to a near maximum 2½-to-3-year prison term and a fine of \$1,000 for illegally possessing the guns. "You represent a crumbling structure of society!" yelled Jones, who had earlier earned a 30-day contempt sentence for his outbursts in court.

Judge Kapp would have none of it. "I believe you were an active partic-

ipant to burn Newark," he told the unrepentant author, and then cited a poem published in last December's *Evergreen Review* in which Jones exhorted Negroes to "smash the window at night (these are magic actions) . . . Just take what you want. Take their lives if need be, but get what you want." "You are sick," lectured the judge. "Not as sick as you," shot back Jones before leaving for Trenton state prison.

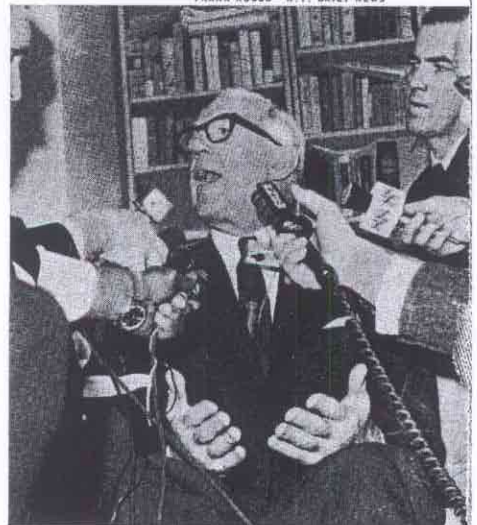
## THE DRAFT

### Doctor's Dilemma

Dandling a copy of his bestselling baby book on one knee, Dr. Benjamin Spock, 64, attempted to define himself before the television cameras in his Manhattan apartment. "I'm not a pacifist," declared the man who was once more concerned with diaper rash than diatribes. "I was very much for the war against Hitler and I supported the intervention in Korea. But in this war, we went in to steal Viet Nam." Spock's efforts to foil that imagined attempt at grand larceny ended last week with his indictment by a federal Grand Jury on charges that could lead to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Named with the baby doctor for "conspiring to counsel, aid and abet" young men to evade service in the armed forces were four other anti-warriors: Yale University Chaplain William Sloane Coffin Jr., 43, long an activist in civil rights and antiwar causes; Brooklyn-born Novelist-Polemicist Mitchell Goodman, 44, who broke up last year's National Book Awards ceremony by shouting "We are burning children in Viet Nam"; former White House Disarmament Aide Marcus Raskin, 33, who now serves as co-director of a Washington research organization; and Michael Ferber, 23, a Harvard graduate student and peace preacher. Of young Ferber's inclusion in the indictment with the bet-

FRANK RUSSO—N.Y. DAILY NEWS



SPOCK IN MANHATTAN Delighted with the opportunity.

TIME, JANUARY 12, 1968

What an expensive bit of...