

# Domestic Action Is Urged

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## \$20 Billion Needed, Says Violence Panel

By William Greider  
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Like other great nations before it, the United States is headed toward a terrible fall unless it redirects its resources to solve the social needs and injustices that foster domestic violence.

After 18 months of study, that somber prognosis was delivered yesterday by the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence.

The 13-member commission called for an initial investment of \$20 billion a year in the nation's social problems and a reduction in defense budgets to make that new spending possible.

The commission's final report, issued yesterday at a press conference, sounded this warning:

"We solemnly declare our conviction that this nation is entering a period in which our people need to be as concerned by the internal dangers to our free society as by any probable combination of external threats. We recognize that substantial amounts of funds cannot be transferred from sterile war purposes to more productive ones until our participation in the Vietnam war is ended.

"We also recognize that to make our society essentially free of poverty and discrimination and to make our sprawling urban areas fit to inhabit will cost a great deal of money and will take a great length of time. We believe, however, that we can and should make a major decision

now to reassess our national priorities by placing these objectives in the first rank of the nation's goals."

While the call for new national priorities has been sounded before, the commission chairman, Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, said he hopes this new plea will have greater impact because the commission included a broad cross-section of viewpoints. The members ranged from the conservative Nebraska Republican senator, Roman Hruska, to the free-wheeling longshoreman-philosopher, Eric Hoffer, to the archbishop of New York, Terence Cardinal Cooke.

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### VIOLENCE, From A1

Most of the commission's 81 proposals for curbing violence in America have already been made public, buttressed by 15 volumes of studies on various aspects of crime, group violence and political assassination. The commission was formed in response to the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The basic volume of reports and recommendations, entitled "To Establish Justice, To Insure Domestic Tranquility," draws a statistical portrait of the 1960s as one of the most violent decades in the history of the nation, studded with social indicators that even more trouble lies ahead if remedial action is not taken.

Eisenhower said he personally delivered the final report to President Nixon who told him he is "gravely concerned" about the problems studied by the group.

Eisenhower said he told the President that, because of inflation and the war costs, "We don't expect to see the millennium occur tomorrow, but we would hope to see serious study given to these proposals and the necessary commitments made for the future."

The commission has called for a doubling of the nation's

spending on crime control and the judicial processes but, beyond the specific steps, it warned that "measures of control" imposed without the social reforms "could turn us into a repressive society where the peace is kept primarily through official coercion rather than through willing obedience to law."

Sen. Philip A. Hart, a liberal Democrat from Michigan, said most of the commission recommendations will require not new laws but greater appropriations of federal funds.

Hart summed up the commission's outlook this way:

"What we're saying to the Congress is, 'Look, fellows, the kids are right. If we can get moon rocks back here, we can get clean air here too. Get your priorities in order. It's exciting to get to the moon, but it's important too to go

shopping around the corner without a police escort.'"

The commission said that, based on estimates from the Council of Economic Advisers, the government could reduce defense spending by \$19 billion a year after the Vietnam war. Regular growth in the national economy would provide the other revenue needed to finance the domestic social programs.

"It is to be expected," the report noted, "that our military leaders will, like other government officials, stress the extreme urgency of the programs under their charge. But we believe the time has come to question whether expenditures for the general welfare should continue to be subordinated to those for national defense."

# Commission on Violence Warns Of Rising Assassination Danger

11/3/69  
By George Lardner Jr.  
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The National Commission on Violence said yesterday that the danger of assassination has become so great that the President and presidential candidates should sharply curtail their public appearances.

The commission recommended television as the best and safest way of reaching the voters.

"Political violence in the United States today is probably more intense than it has been since the turn of the century," the presidential panel said.

"Present trends warn of an escalating risk of assassination, not only for Presi-

dents, but for other officeholders at every level of government, as well as leaders of civil rights and political-interest groups."

The commission stopped short of proposing an end to the tradition of "mingling with the people" that Americans have come to expect of the President and presidential candidates.

But it hinted strongly that personal contact with large audiences should be confined to enclosed meeting halls "where the risk of assassination can be significantly reduced."

Television, the commission maintained, is best suited in any event "as a forum for serious considera-

tion of modern complex issues." It suggested that Congress pass a law granting free time in the final weeks before election day "to establish a new pattern in presidential campaigning and to reduce significantly the pressure toward personal appearances in all parts of the country."

Appointed after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last year in Los Angeles, the 13-member panel went on to recommend Secret Service protection for any federal officeholders or candidates whose lives are considered in peril.

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Latin America, Russia and Eastern Europe with their revolutions and palace coups.

"Many of the conditions associated with conspiratorial assassinations in other countries," the commission warned, "appear to be developing in this country."

## Signals Listed

Among the danger signals listed:

- "There is much talk today of revolution and urban guerrilla warfare by extremists and there have been outbreaks of violence with aspects of guerrilla warfare . . . If extremists carry out their threats, we can expect political assassinations."

- Even if the rhetoric of revolution remains just rhetoric, the constant vilification of America's institutions and leaders could destroy their legitimacy in the eyes of other segments of society. "The assassinations during the Reconstruction Era arose in just such a context."

- Negroes have long been the victims of white terrorist murderers. Now, with growing numbers of Negroes in public office, they face the threats both of white extremists and radical blacks.

- The United States may in the next few years undergo even more rapid socio-economic change than it

## VIOLENCE, From A1

Better safeguards for state and local politicians, especially governors and mayors, were also suggested.

Finally, the commission renewed its call for restrictive licensing of handguns and advocated use of electronic arms-detection equipment to check out persons entering public meeting places.

The restraints were proposed in a 10-page policy statement by the commission. It was accompanied by a 580-page task force report on assassinations and political violence in the United States and other countries.

Emphasizing that it was making no predictions, the commission contended that the precautions proposed would be "worthwhile whether or not this nation faces a new outbreak of political assassinations."

## Some Conditions Exist

"But we feel compelled to note," the members said, "that some of the conditions

for such an outbreak are present or may be developing. These conditions add urgency to the need to develop effective protection against assassination."

Only once during its history, during the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War, has the United States gone through the turmoil and instability classically associated with high assassination rates, the commission said. "During that decade, America experienced close to half of all the assassinations in its history."

The 1960s brought the killings of President John F. Kennedy; his brother Robert; the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Medgar Evers; Malcolm X and George Lincoln Rockwell, "still only a small fraction" of the violence of Reconstruction.

But the political climate, the commission said, remains ominous, posing the danger not only of more assassinations by sick, self-appointed loners in the American style, but also of assassination conspiracies — the pattern of the Middle East,

has in the past. Rapid change is another characteristic that correlates with high levels of conspiratorial assassination.

Whatever happens, the commission said, Presidents will continue to run the greatest risk. So far, their assassins have, almost all of them, been lonely, demented men acting by themselves, beginning with the house painter who fancied himself the King of England and tried to kill Andrew Jackson in 1835.

Against that backdrop, the commission said, it could have been easily predicted in 1968 before Sirhan Sirhan shot Robert Kennedy — that the next killer would be white, male, slightly built, from a broken home, unable to hold a steady job in the months before the shooting, a friendless zealot with a

handgun, waiting around a crowd.

But if the political turbulence in America grows worse, the commission suggested, the next one may not be alone. The type of assassins who plot together, the report indicated, needs only a slightly more violent milieu.

#### Key Recommendation

Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, the commission's chairman, told reporters that the key recommendation of the report was "that presidential candidates not expose themselves to situations which provide maximum opportunity for the assassin.

"Presidents and Negro leaders are fine targets," he said, "but all candidates should limit their public appearances."

The commission said it

would be neither practical nor desirable to isolate the President in the White House and confine his contacts with the public to television and other media.

It said, however, that he could minimize the risks by picking his public appearances and means of travel carefully, restricting notice of his movements, and confining himself "to meeting places to which access is carefully controlled."

#### Touch of Irony

Openly critical of the "carnival atmosphere" of campaign rallies, the commission suggested that they weren't worth the effort anyway "since even the most strenuous travel schedule will expose (a candidate) to only a small percentage of the American people."

By and large, the commis-

sion contended, the TV tube is preferable.

The recommendation was not without its irony. Just six weeks ago, the commission scored television for "pandering to a public preoccupation with violence that television itself has helped to generate."

Yesterday, however, the commission found the medium best for avoiding that violence in politics. Beyond that, it said, more TV campaigning could be healthy.

"On the premise that it is easier to flick a dial in the living room than to drive across town to a rally," the commission declared, "we note that television programs could widen the base of political participation in America. (This) might be an antidote to the political violence . . . which has recently been on the upswing."