

# Citizens Show Shock, Anger and Some

## WORRY ON CRIME VOICED BY MANY

Fear of Growing Violence  
Is Mixed With Expression  
of Sorrow for Kennedy

Special to The New York Times

PIERRE, S. D., June 5 — Pierre, pronounced "peer" by its residents, is a somnolent village of 10,000 on the Missouri River. It lies in the midst of unending stretches of tree-less ranchland and flat prairie farmland. Its stores serve farmers, and many of its residents work for the state government.

Today it was a puzzled, indignant community after news of the Kennedy shooting spread.

"I don't know what this country is coming to," said Wayman Smith, an influential rancher whose 3,000 head of Angus cattle roam over 35,000 acres of sun-baked land west of the river.

"It's getting pretty bad," he said at his apartment in the St. Charles Hotel in the middle of Pierre. "I get up early. I heard it about 6 on the radio. Then I switched to TV, and we have listened to it all day.

"My wife was like me, terribly surprised. I wasn't specially for him for President, but didn't want him to be shot."

### Unanimous Reaction

That reaction was unanimous regardless of party. South Dakota is a conservative, Republican state, and Pierre reflects it. Both houses of the legislature are more than 5-to-1 Republican.

The town is even less lively than usual now because the legislature is between sessions, but some legislators are here for committee work.

Five of them, all Republicans, who wore business suits but no ties, discussed the shooting at the Falcon Restaurant, which was decorated with the saddles and accoutrements of Casey Tibbs, a former champion rodeo rider.

"It's tragic," said State Senator Holger Anderson of Sioux Falls. "We ought to become a lot firmer in enforcing the law."

"I was shocked," said Representative G. E. (Casey) Scribner of Sioux Falls. "It makes a

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## Indifference at the News of

person wonder about the future of the country if criminals are going to take this course whenever they don't like something."

At the Terrace Motel in the middle of town, Beth Chaussee, a dark-haired young maid, said:

"It's kind of awful. I don't know what makes people think they have the right to go around shooting anybody they don't like."

"I know what I'd do," said Raymond Beaver, a 25-year-old construction worker, who was helping to build a retaining wall at the little county jail. "I'd hang that bastard."

"It was a no-good deal," said Arden Rhode, whose name reflects the German and Scandinavian extraction of many South Dakotans. "I'm a registered Republican and I didn't like Kennedy, but it's still a no-good deal."

Mr. Rhode finished his beer in one of the bars that line Pierre's downtown streets. As he put on his 10-gallon hat and left for lunch, he said that everyone who had come into the drugstore he managed had talked about the shooting.

Karen Riggs, an assistant librarian at the town's tree-shaded brick library, said her sister awakened her family at 5 A.M. with a call from California.

"Everyone got up to watch television, but nothing was on yet," she said, "so we just listened to the radio."

"I think it's just awful. I thought the United States was such a good place compared to other countries. And then we do this."

### 'Just Another Day'

Special to The New York Times

DETROIT, June 5 — "Just another day," Luisa Washington said, trying to sum up her reaction to the shooting of Senator Kennedy.

"I'm immune to shock because of violence. That doesn't mean I'm indifferent. President Kennedy's death prepared people for anything. I wasn't even shocked when Dr. King was killed," the 21-year-old Negro secretary said.

"Most people seem to be getting used to violence as a way of life," Miss Washington said.

The reaction wasn't unusual. Half the Detroiters interviewed on the streets or at their jobs said the shooting was not completely unexpected.

Those who talked about "surprise" and "disbelief" seemed to have more of a "no, not again" sense of horror, rather than real surprise.

"Just the other day, I said they were going to assassinate him. I said that they got his brother and they will get him next. I don't know why he is running," said Joan Zabor, 21, a secretary for an encyclopaedia salesman.

"Inert" was the way Jerry Sobania, 28, a teletype repairman, described himself. He rattled off assassinations — Dr. King, Malcolm X, President Kennedy — and then said that perhaps these had led to his "inert" feeling.

"I sort of had an idea something like that might happen," Edward Culbreth, 33, a Negro auto plant worker, said.

"When he was here in town I saw him. I thought someone could do it easy."

"Anybody tries to do something good, he's wiped off," his companion, Alonzo Borders, 37, said. "The bad people here that don't do nothing, they are here forever. But a man tries to do something, he don't last longer than nothing."

"I thought it might happen, but after he got nominated," John Zaccagni, a 29-year-old newspaper stereotyper, said. "Here in the United States we've got something called instant nut."

### A Sign of Crime

To some the shooting was another sign of crime on the streets.

"The courts are making it too easy for criminals. Civil rights is fine, but it's making it too easy for criminals," Albert Stepke, 53, a postman, said.

"There ought to be a curfew on all teen-agers all the time and stop this crime," a cab driver said.

There also was concern about the Kennedy family.

"Ten kids and one on the way. That's rough whether a man is a millionaire or not," said Bryan Crowley, 30, a father of three.

In most ways it was a routine day. Detroit's auto plants ground on as usual and the business offices were open. "We like to eat so we have to keep on going," said Ray Mulligan, 61, a painter.

But for Ronald August, a policeman, the shooting meant a

one-month delay in his trial, which was scheduled to begin today. He is charged with deliberately killing a Negro during Detroit's riot last July.

"How would you like to defend someone the day a Kennedy was shot," said the prosecutor, who agreed to the trial postponement.

### Shock in Birmingham

Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 5 —In Birmingham, today there were feelings of shock, even sorrow.

"This is just horrible," said a young suburban mother of four who had never said a kind word for Mr. Kennedy before.

These words, or similar words, formed the general comment heard in Birmingham, a city from which most of this nation had come to expect a tolerance for violence.

In 10 years, Birmingham has been the scene of more than 100 dynamite bombings. In the most shocking one, five years ago, four Negro girls were killed when a bomb exploded under their Sunday school room at a church.

And this had been a pattern shared by much of the rest of Alabama, where Negro churches and homes were bombed, and civil rights workers were shot down on the streets.

For many in Alabama there still is a tendency to punctuate their anger with violence.

Today in Mobile, for example, where white parents have threatened to defy a Federal

court in a school desegregation case, the police were searching for young men who rode through the city shooting at Negroes.

Some of the thoughts of Birmingham businessmen were on the city's future today when word of the shooting of Mr. Kennedy reached here.

"Thank God it wasn't Birmingham where he was shot," an insurance company executive said at lunch.

"I guess that sounds wrong," he said. "Of course, I'm sorry he was shot. It's just that we've been blamed so much here. Those civil rights shootings themselves, the bombings, Martin Luther King's murder."

A salesman at a hotel bar said loudly that "Kennedy brought it on himself, stirring up those people like he did."

"It probably was a Cuban who shot him because of the Bay of Pigs," he said.

He was called down by one of two friends with him. "You don't know what you're talking about," he said.

The Birmingham News, the state's largest and most influential newspaper, said editorially that "a monster is loose in America."

"There is a very real threat that a great free society, which

has survived every assault from the outside, may fall victim to a demon devouring it from within.

"America's strength has been its tolerance of ideas.

"That tolerance has seemed to vanish, to be replaced with the idea that violence—directed against an individual or against society—is an adequate method of expressing a view."

### U.P.I. Elects Officer

The election of Cliff McDowell as a vice president of United Press International was announced yesterday by Mims Thomason, president of the news service. Mr. McDowell, a native of Oakland, Calif., is general manager of U.P.I. Newspictures and has directed the worldwide operations of the picture service since July, 1965.

### Draft Resister Gets 3 Years

Federal Judge Inzer B. Wyatt imposed a three-year prison sentence yesterday on George A. Sandbank, 22 years old, of 2593 Sedgwick Avenue, the Bronx, who was convicted April 24 as a draft resister. Sandbank was continued free until next Wednesday to give him time to file a petition in the circuit court of appeals here for bail pending appeal.