

Too close to 1984

Penn Jones, Jr.'s eleven year investigation into the political assassination of John F. Kennedy is a monument to investigative journalism. His courage in the face of overwhelming odds far exceeds that of Don Quixote, for his windmill is the United States Government and military.

He has read the lies and inconsistencies on the Warren Report, and he has interviewed hundreds of witnesses whose testimony was either distorted, changed or refused by the commission, the F.B.I. and the Dallas authorities.

Many of these witnesses and many of the principals in the assassination have since died or disappeared. Some have fallen from windows, been run over, have been hanged in jail cells, etc. Penn's books "Forgive My Grief," volumes I, II and III, all printed at his own expense, document the deaths of these witnesses. A fourth volume will soon be available.

Penn's conclusion, voiced at the lecture, is that we were subjected to a successful military coup. As he stated, the military always controls a country in war time and it is exceedingly difficult for the civil government to regain control in peace time. John Kennedy was the first to make a successful attempt and so had to die. It was primarily a military operation.

The Watergate Affair, the permitted resignation of Nixon and his unconditional pardon by his appointee, have apparently jolted many Americans out of their complacency and it is to be hoped that they will watch and ward their government and attempt to keep it in check. 1984 may be much closer than anyone thinks.

— Stephen M. Osborne

All dressed and no place

by Drew Mendelson

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the number of public toilet facilities in this country is declining at an exponential rate. The closing of many railroad stations and hotels, they said, is a primary factor in the decrease. Service stations until now have been a refuge, but they too have become fewer.

Department stores, restaurants and office buildings, fearing an influx of luckless lavatory seekers, have begun to eliminate their own publicly available facilities. The department suggests that this toiletlessness is a major reason for persons avoiding urban centers.

Without the public comfort stations the average American would be unable to spend any great deal of time outside his home. That receptacle may have become the sine qua non of our society.

Our urban centers, the department continued, have begun to crumble. Those persons still forced to enter the central cities must have — like a sort of top secret clearance — special pass keys to what have become strategic hamlets in hostile territory.

"The domino effect," the department sardonically remarked, "continues . . ."

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