

To the Editor:

NYTimes

Tom Wicker's apology "Death of a Brother" [Aug. 24] was without a doubt irresponsible journalism at its very worst. Mr. Wicker's column was a very patent attempt to cast doubt upon the official version of the San Quentin jailbreak by giving quasi-credence to Jackson's mother's charge that her son was set up and murdered by prison officials.

In imputing to the entire Negro race in general a ubiquitous and abiding mistrust of the white man's authority and justice as he has done in this column, Wicker subverts the efforts of all Negroes who seek to preserve and indeed enlarge upon the truly great advances they have achieved over recent years—without tearing our society asunder in the process.

Is this an example of the quiet voices of reason that our liberal friends like Mr. Wicker repeatedly prescribe for us when we impatiently lash out at injustice? Hardly. This is the raucous voice of a liberal apologist who chooses to subsume the guilt of an entire race, beguiling his reason in the process by pandering to the passions of revolutionaries, thereby fanning the flames of racial unrest to an even greater intensity. Mr. Wicker has done all of us, black and white, a terrible disservice with this column.

ROBERT HOHL
Laurel, Md., Aug. 25, 1971

To the Editor:

Tom Wicker's eloquent and burning "In The Nation" column speaks for millions of Americans who, like George Jackson, are helpless, hopeless and powerless before an uncaring and cynical authority. His valiant and unrelenting pounding away against social injustice, against those arrogant and little men who would deny the promise of American life to blacks or Chicanos or Indians or other minorities—"black and white, brothers all, who will be or have been destroyed," gives Mr. Wicker a very special splendor in a dark and evil time. For mil-

lions of people who truly care about a decent world for all our people, he has become the conscience of mankind.

STUART PALMER
Southbury, Conn., Aug. 24, 1971

To the Editor:

In the same breath, I wish to protest strongly against your printing Tom Wicker's irresponsible column on San Quentin, Aug. 24, and to commend you for the strong rebuke you administered to Mr. Wicker's position in your Aug. 25 editorial. It is unbelievable that a responsible national columnist could pick up his pen within 24 hours of those insanely vicious killings and talk airily about how many will believe Jackson was framed and how deprived his life had been. If Mr. Wicker wants to build George Jackson into a symbol of black oppression, he does little justice to the rest of the black community in this country.

HENRY R. BRECK
New York, Aug. 25, 1971

To the Editor:

Correction please, Tom Wicker. "To be powerless and hopeless before an uncaring or oppressive law" is to be an elderly lady walking on the streets of New York. Even if a criminal is caught in the act, the chances are he will walk away laughing because the laws are stacked in his favor and he knows it. Take a good look at your city and find out who is in danger—maybe you. If you have a solution, let's hear it, but don't cry to us about the poor criminals.

I once met a "talented writer and sensitive man" (a black) on the streets of London, who was so crazed with hate he threatened to kill me because I was an American lady—for no other reason. If this had been the case with Jackson, I certainly wouldn't have wanted him loose on the streets. And while we're at it, let's shed a tear for all the talented and sensitive people murdered or robbed in this country.

JOAN PRESSEL
New York, Aug. 24, 1971