

SHOULD HISTORIANS WRITE CONTEMPORARY HISTORY?

by Henry Steele Commager

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excerpt from Commager's comment on A Thousand Days, by Arthur Schlesinger:

"Indeed the excitement over revelations of Kennedy's attitude toward Secretary Rusk - an attitude of somewhat exasperated admiration - is for the most part factitious. . . . Assuredly far more sobering than any criticism of Rusk is Schlesinger's verdict on the CIA that 'The CIA had its own political desks and military staffs; it had in effect its own foreign service, its own air force, even, on occasion, its own combat forces. Moreover the CIA declined to clear its clandestine intelligence operations either with the State Department in Washington or with the Ambassador in the field.'"