

Henry J. Taylor

False Charge of Guilt

IN THE Los Angeles horror, as in the Dallas horror, we are told and told and told to blame the assassinations on ourselves. Our nation is condemned as a place where society is at fault. We are bombarded by the false shout: "The guilt is ours," or "It is society's fault."

Nothing could be more indefensible, or more damaging and dangerous to the United States.

We must strive to create a more perfect Union. There is much we can do to make this land richer and better for all the people. But we are the victims of those who pound home the preachment of individual rights instead of individual responsibility.

AN INSIDIOUS poison is pumped into our structure by politicians, special interests and even by some churchmen whenever they automatically call criminality society's fault and dismiss the individual from responsibility.

We heard President Kennedy's assassination blamed on Dallas and on a "sick American society." Even before the assassin was identified CBS — for one — made it plain that in its opinion the President was killed by a "right wing" conspiracy. Sen. Barry Goldwater was deluged with obscene calls. Sen. John Tower told me that he and his family were so abused that they had to move out of their house that night to escape the TV viewers' abuse, as if he had assisted Lee Harvey Oswald to re-enter the United States.

Yet it's hard to imagine anything more

false than to indict American society on the grounds of Oswald, a man about as typical of American society in this country of 200 million people as the man on the moon.

Nevertheless, we note again that the ghastly Los Angeles crime is widely pronounced as our society's fault, even though allegedly committed by an equally untypical Sirhan B. Sirhan.

In addition, this false approach opens the door for envious or enemy countries abroad to chop great America down to size. Predictably, the infamous Los Angeles shots, like the Dallas and Memphis shots before them, presented an excuse for another wave of hypocrisy from overseas.

Assassination horrors have always been a part of European national life, and these foreign critics of America know it.

Instead of falsely blaming "society," one proper blame concerns retribution, as a just deterrent. It has been horribly weakened.

GIUSEPPE ZANGARA was tried, found guilty and electrocuted only 33 days after his Miami attempt to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt. But our Supreme Court's continued twisting of the Constitution is making a shambles of the criminal laws in our country.

The end result of this process can only be, as we see, more crime and the consequential loss of freedoms and security, which are the supposed goals of judicial lawmaking.