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'What Purpose Served?'

The Washington Post, as well as other media, recently speculated as to the identity of the former Central Intelligence Agency officer who sought to have the Senate Select Committee delete his name from the Committee's assassination report. The President, Judge Gerhard A. Gesell and I all found that there is a real possibility of physical harm to this man or to his family if his name were revealed. Indeed, the Senate Select Committee finally agreed to delete his name from the report.

I have great difficulty in understanding what legitimate purpose was served by the published speculation concerning the identity, right or wrong, of an individual whose physical safety is thus endangered.

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Washington.

Editor's note: Prior to publication of the story to which Mr. Colby takes exception, the CIA official in question had been identified unmistakably in numerous news accounts. While Judge Gesell conceded the possibility of physical harm to the official if his name appeared in the Senate Committee report, he nonetheless refused to restrain its publication. (See For the Record, on the opposite page.)