

RFK SANDBAGGING GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION - SAHL

FP: First, on a basic issue, what's new in Garrison's assassination investigation?

MS: Well, a lot of things aren't new. We know the Right is horrendous, the Left is impotent and the Social Democrats are cowardly. Here's Garrison and Mark Lane trying to save America. What's new is that 10 million Americans have Playboy in their hand now . . . have that interview of unvarnished truth. It's Jim Garrison speaking what he knows. He has an airtight case against these people. There's sweating in the Virginia countryside these nights about how to stop him.

The L.A. Times recently quoted Garrison, in a New York interview, saying that Robert Kennedy is trying to sandbag the investigation and that he has probably placed his political ambition above the truth being brought out about his brother.

FP: Hugh Manes once said that all the establishment will have to do is squash this thing from the top.

MS: It looks as if they did that with the case. However, Garrison is one of those people who fortunately always show up in this country. He is not sophisticated or facile enough to be as corrupt as the establishment people. He's not a liberal, Jewish metropolitan lawyer who has decided that liberalism is too heavy a burden so he'll jettison it like an empty belly tank on an F-111.

He is a white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant from the South, who believes his oath of office, and he's not for sale. They'll have to do a lot to him. They've tried everything. They won't kill him. They'll only try to discredit him.

And there's so much guilt in the American people that they'll try to go along with it. For instance, you sit with a shoe salesman who says, "Oh, that Garrison, isn't so lily-white either: they picked up his check at the Sands Hotel," which, as you know, is equal to killing the President in the American consciousness.

FP: Garrison says he has the photographs of five men firing behind the fence on the grassy knoll.

MS: He has a lot of documentation.

FP: Does he know who they are?

MS: Yes, he does. He knows their names and the CIA knows that he knows their names. There are 51 documents the CIA has classified that have to do with the fact that the people involved in killing the President were all alumni of the CIA. It's getting so everybody in America's an alumni of the CIA.

FP: They were men on the CIA payroll?

MS: Yes, but he doesn't suggest that they were when they killed the President. He says they were at one time or another. Garrison said again and again to me, "I don't believe anyone in the government would try to harm the President." He's also a charitable man.

You might like to know that a week ago I worked in Columbus, Ohio at the Miramar. Gordon Novel was in four days out of six with a notebook and a pencil taking the act down. Gordon was always in Columbus along with several other CIA operators. The CIA decentralizes now. In other words, you can't always have an airbase to help the prosperity of your community but perhaps you can have a couple of CIA agents, who have more to spend than an airbase, generally speaking. The future of federalism is really in doubt from this end.

FP: The Saturday Evening Post article left the impression that there was something rather suspect about Garrison's staff. Are these paid men or volunteers?

MS: Some are paid and some are volunteers, Gurvich volunteered, but as Garrison said in Playboy (in which he

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a taped interview Free Press staff members Paul Eberle and Tony Anthony had with Mort Sahl, Sept. 23. No names have been changed to protect interests.)



answers Phelan of the Post), Phelan was sent in there on an organized attack to discredit the investigation.

There are several people working for Garrison as \$1-a-year men. Most are DA staff men. The liberals of this community wouldn't understand a Loyola graduate, who's a Southerner, wanting to get the truth. The only kind we know are Jewish writers who turn each other in to HUAC because of the burden of liberalism. But we can all make up for that, of course, by sending our old clothes to Watts. It's all insane!

Garrison's staff is the Truth and Consequences committee. You know, the businessmen helping. But he doesn't have the money to follow this investigation. He has a municipal budget and that's at best limited. We largely have a couple of principal men.

FP: To your knowledge has Garrison had his life threatened?

MS: Yeah, all the time. He and his wife get calls at home before the kids go to school. What a way to wake up. When I went to see him he met me at the door in a bathrobe. I said, "Don't you have any guards?" He said, "If they can kill the President, they can kill me. What safeguards are there to take?" And when his wife says what about the kids, he says "The best thing I can leave the kids is the idea that they can go on whether I am alive or not."

FP: There is almost total silence in the press...

MS: Because there is a mutuality of interests in the people that rule. I'm suggesting that it isn't that people are fearful when the government calls them and warns them. It's that people are so corrupt that they don't need to be warned. They have a mutuality of interest with the establishment because they are the ruling class. News men don't choose to look at what's right—the Social Democrats in the middle know it's corrupt and don't want to be reminded—we're a guilt-stricken nation. Because when I say why don't THEY do something, THEY becomes WE and WE becomes I. A lot of guilt in this country. It's well-earned by the various abuses to other people in the world and, of course, the betrayal of the American people.

This establishment WILL FALL, and it doesn't deserve to survive. But that's everybody. That's every liberal newsman, who looked the other way and said he wanted to hang on to what he had. Every newsman who wouldn't let Mark Lane be heard for four years in this country. The media are quite suspect.

FP: When is the Clay Shaw trial coming off?

MS: His lawyers are allowed all kinds of moves—those are his civil rights. I might add that when Garrison went into court and gave a preliminary hearing to Shaw, he gave him every benefit of the doubt. He's a great believer in civil rights, Garrison.

It's a laugh that the federal government is worried about Shaw's civil rights—the same federal government that executed the Rosenbergs, that blacklisted people in the movie industry, and that sends police out to beat people up in demonstrations, that runs the FBI, the CIA, the Secret Service and the Defense Intelligence Agency, is telling YOU about civil rights. Shaw has to exhaust all of the legal avenues. He has lawyers whom Garrison suspects are retained by the Central Intelligence Agency. Garrison also tells me that Shaw's lawyers were given all kinds of information by NBC when it conducted its "impartial investigation" of Garrison. The people that killed the President are not on trial—the D.A. is.

The CIA had a birthday Sept. 19—its 20th anniversary. They had a party at their Virginia headquarters. Humphrey
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addressed them. You know it was a holiday—I hope none of you guys down at the Free Press worked. It was the CIA's anniversary, and the CIA suggested you take the day off and Garrison take four years off if possible.

Anyway, Shaw may go to trial the second week in October or it may be delayed as long as after New Year's. But he will go to trial. But he will go to trial. Yes he will. Yes he will.

FP: This time, will the press keep quiet?

MS: I don't know. This is our only chance to get the country back. We're going to save ourselves if they show us the truth. If not, the country won't be over but as Garrison says, you will not be living in the same country you were born in.

Garrison's thesis is that the CIA and the Pentagon are so imbedded that they are bigger than any president, and no president can attack them, and that the last president

who did—President Kennedy—died for his pains. He died for the finest thing he ever did.

Garrison is no friend of the local judiciary there. But the three judges heard the case and bound Shaw over for trial. They thought there was sufficient evidence. Shaw will be tried. Shaw will be tried with a battery of lawyers to defend him and Garrison to prosecute him. I would suggest that those who are more interested in Garrison's destiny and our own buy the New Orleans States-Item, because they carry the news. It's front page news down there. They don't manage to carry it up here—they're kind of busy. Also the television newsmen don't carry it. I've found that almost no one is interested in this case—I mean among the liberal contingent. They're looking the other way. They're busy waiting for Robert Kennedy to bail them out. This issue will have to be resolved or nothing will be resolved.

FP: One thought comes to mind since the Century City riot last June 23rd. Do you see anything significant in the rather dramatic increase in police violence against peace marchers?

MS: Yeah, I see the desperation of the establishment.

FP: Krassner has a Realist story by somebody named Allen which says that the FBI has 1 million arrest warrants already typed up and the concentration camps are ready to accommodate them.

MS: Allen can document that, he says. As Garrison points out, Hoover—with 44 years in office—is the finest director the Bureau has ever had. Garrison says the tragedy of Hoover's career will be that he didn't try to find who killed the President. He believes the FBI could have found them in two weeks—I don't think it would have taken that long. They were all around.

The wild part is, this is all happening under a Democratic administration. And people are still sitting around, rationalizing, saying "Well, gee, I hope they don't run Reagan... they haven't had enough, right? They're worried about Reagan. They haven't had enough, right? Concentration camps, federal police, death in Vietnam and they're still coming up with "Well, gee... what can I do?" The expiation of guilt. The liberals, boy. They are really something.

Garrison is the most important man in America—no contest. He's fantastic. I'd vote for him for President. He's great. He's the man who looks dead level at you when you ask, "What was the government's first reaction when the President was killed?" and says, "Well, they had to ratify it." He's really something. Brilliant.

FP: Why was your show cancelled on television? I understand the ratings were good.

MS: Yes, the station admits that.

FP: On both radio and television?

MS: The radio show was the #1 rated show in Los Angeles. It was ahead of KHJ, a rock and roll station, which had a 13.1, and I had a 17.7.

which had a 13.1, and I had a 17.7. They cancelled it for insubordination, they said, but I want to show you the chronology. I got the first national interview with Garrison and I played it on KLAC along with the inauguration of John Kennedy, and I was fired. Then Mark Lane gave a statement on KTTV Television that I was fired on radio because it was the only place in America Garrison could be heard, (sad to say) and KTTV fired me in the middle of a contract. And I tell you that corporations are not capricious and are not hysterical and they don't throw money away. I don't believe it was a commercial decision. There are indications that somebody leaned on them.

FP: It had the highest share of audience in L.A.

MS: Yeah, because I told the truth to the kids, and that's all there is. I told them about the draft, I told them about Kennedy, I told them what was happening. So because I believed and bet on the future being the kids—I didn't try to rub it out with an eraser—that's what I got.

And what happened to all the liberals I talked to for 58 weeks? Not a phone call, not a sound. The program went off. Fifty-eight weeks, and them throwing up their hands and saying "Gee! What do you want us to do?" Well, they know what to do.

FP: Could the National Archives be opened under a new administration?

MS: Yes, it can be opened under any President—he can reverse the order. I gather from what Garrison says that if Robert Kennedy were president he would not open it. He held on to it and then he asked the President to put it in the Archives.

When Garrison says that Robert Kennedy is sandbagging his investigation he's talking about the fact that Gurvich quit after leaving Bobby Kennedy's office, and he's talking about the fact that NBC's man, Walter Sheridan, who attacked Garrison—"The Case Against Jim Garrison" was run on 210 NCB stations—was the man who went after Hoffa under Bobby Kennedy's direction, and Ed Guffman, who's Bobby Kennedy's administrative assistant, is a great Garrison critic.

Now we see more. If Robert Kennedy is neutral in this case, why doesn't he call up Jim Garrison and ask him what he has, or why doesn't he admonish him, or something? But sandbag the investigation? ... would not be given out in our lifetime.

MS: Earl Warren just said from Tokyo, where he was on vacation, that if Garrison had anything new, he doubted

it. And Garrison answered - it was not printed here, in the New Orleans STATES-ITEM - he said, "I've been waiting for this. The infantry is lined up, now comes the artillery." He also said to me that Earl Warren, according to the liberals, may be Jesus Christ, Albert Schweitzer, and Ghandi rolled into one, but a thousand Earl Warrens, shoulder to shoulder on the Potomac, don't make lies the truth.

FP: Other than Jim Garrison - do you personally have any choice of who you'd like to see elected in 1968?

MS: Well . . . a choice? I don't know if they're going to give me a choice or not, to answer your question. But I'd like to see the people take some interest in their destiny. They're starting to rationalize already. And I want to tell you something - a bunch of the guys that you've been very generous to, with space, because you hoped that these people were the left wing of the Democratic party, I find to be opportunists. The only thing they have against Johnson is that he's holding on to the chair instead of them. I don't believe those people running on the left side of the party. I think they're frauds. I think they have no courage. And that they're amazingly solid about this case. And you know who I mean, or I'd be happy to name them for you.



FP: If the Archives were opened, can you foresee a rebellion or revolution by the American people?

MS: The establishment must think the American people have decent instincts, or it wouldn't bother to suppress information. However, I've found a great gulf between their awareness of the material and their taking action.

You see, there's an inertia—it's like that lag, you know, when your carburetor linkage is off—you step down and you wait and then ku-klunk, hopefully.

I would like to believe that when these revelations are apparent, they'll move—but I'll tell you something. When I charged conspiracy about my own employment case, people argued with me—and when I charged there was a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, people argued with me. A person who truly has innocence will be bewildered and ask you questions, and say "Gee, is that really true?" A Social Democrat will start to ridicule your position, under the guise of "What are you talking about?"

They are not truly innocent, and I don't give a damn whether you're talking about the American press or your friends at dinner. They know. They know. Mark Lane's thesis—and I agree again—is that they have conjectured how terrible the truth is and then they retreat from that realization. And that's how you can tell—by the degree with which they argue with you.

There aren't enough Fascists or evil men to do this. But there are a lot of weak-kneed liberals in the middle who helped them carry it off. "Well, what are you talking about? Are you kidding? Who else could we vote for? We have to vote for Johnson—what do you want, Nixon?" The same old garbage—"what can we do? The lesser of two evils—we could have gotten out of Vietnam seven years ago, what can we do now," and if that fails, they start attacking Kennedy to me. "Well, he wasn't that good a President." He must have been better than they know, or they wouldn't have taken the pains to kill him. I gather, too, that once Garrison's thesis comes out (that President Kennedy was accommodating the Russians and infuriated the Neo-Nazis in this country, and was coming to peace terms with Castro and Khrushchev) that means that if Robert Kennedy runs then the Republicans can say, "Well, are you going to embrace Communism too?" That's why they don't want that brought out. In Garrison's Playboy interview he states that Lisa Howard of ABC news was setting up a meeting between Che Guevara and Bobby Kennedy to straighten it all out. And our friends, the Cuban exiles, didn't like that at all.

FP: Has Garrison thought to say that the oil trusts didn't like what was happening?

MS: In New Orleans, last night, I met the Truth and Consequences committee backing Garrison—many of them are millionaire oilmen—honest guys with offshore oil off the gulf. Still Garrison said only last night in New York for publication that Neo-Nazis in this country and Texas oil money was instrumental in killing the President. I have faith that he will just as fearlessly involve elements

of the Dallas Police in this scenario. I think that there may be some military alumni involved in this thing, too.

But he's Fearless Fosdick, boy. He just calls it as he finds it. You know everybody hates to see their balloon broken. The amazing thing is this—Garrison is a reserve colonel who's willing to go to Vietnam, was an FBI agent for two years, lives in the Southern United States, and is in the middle class of the Protestant community. He stumbled on this in his 44th year and didn't turn his back on it.

But the liberals are amazing. The right wing kills the President and the liberals fight like hell to protect them. Liberals protecting the establishment. That's the corruption that we've seen in our time.

FP: Since you were censored on radio and TV, have you noticed any change in people's awareness of the assassination inquiry?

MS: The fact is that nobody did it after me. I notice Les Crane started here on Channel 11 with real controversy, "Has the Buffalo Springfield really got a new sound?" As McLuhan says, "the young live mythically and in death." Les Crane comes on and the first question from a young kid is: "Are you going to fill Mort Sahl's shoes?" He said, "No, I wouldn't try. He's got his own thing going and he's stuck with it." Very vicious, for no good purpose. No, there hasn't been anything. Johnny Carson put me on twice since then and the Smothers Brothers have gotten in touch with me, but there's been nothing.

There'll be a stampede when this thing comes out to get on the bandwagon, but I don't know how far the establishment will go to keep this from coming out. They're not going to give up easily. I have this: the right wing hates me on general principles, the Social Democrats stand by and say, "Get out of the way! He's in the line of fire. I don't want to get hit." We've got that group. Then there's the people on my side who say, "Well, I really love you, but I can't stand to see you bleed; goodbye."

Leaves kind of a barren group—I'm kind of empty back there in the back yard. I'm going to New York to start a show—a legitimate show—and I expect it will deal with this issue. But anyway, not to run afiel from your question—I haven't heard anything. From anybody. The CBS show was a lie, a cover-up, and NBC is worried now—as Garrison points out in Playboy—and that leaves ABC. We know what they are.

FP: Have you heard of Radio Free America - Lipton's thing?

MS: As a matter of fact, coincidentally enough, Garrison said it to me first - he said, "We need a Radio Free America to give the people the information."

FP: They're putting in a pirate radio station out here.

MS: Well, godspeed. I hope everything goes well.



Free Press Photos by Tony Anthony

FP: Could a Republican nominee make Johnson nervous enough to start the third world war before the Republican got in office?

MS: I will tell you this—on July 30 I was with Sen. Percy in Chicago and he said we've got to do something quickly in Vietnam. Somebody said what about voting as a way out—vote against it, and so forth, if you don't like it. Percy answered, "A lot can happen in a year and a half while you're waiting and getting your pencils sharpened."

It's the liberals who worry me, again. President Johnson, god forbid, should have a heart attack. I see a guy like Humphrey going on the air and saying, "As a memorial to our leader who fell leading us in our fight to free Asia, I've ordered SAC into China."

Where the hell is everybody? Where are the psychiatrists? Where are the ex-communists? Where are the selfish women who don't want to see their sons die? Forget altruism. Where are all the people in this country? What happened to them? Suppose I got off a space ship, and I asked what happened? Somebody must know. They keep saying they don't know. They know.

FP: They're working overtime at Litton and Rocketdyne.

MS: I saw Donald Duncan in San Francisco recently. He said a Technical Sergeant in the Green Berets over there makes \$900 a month with all allowances, lives in a villa with air conditioning—it's not all sacrifices in the field. They've made it pay. They've kept this madness going so long that people have become captives of it. I believe if

you say it long enough then you get in the White House and you sit with a man and he talks to you about maximum deterrents and agonizing reappraisal

By the way, the New York Times carried a headline yesterday that said Rusk's daughter Marries Negro—the great liberal newspaper. He's their kind of Negro, isn't he? He's a Roman Catholic who loves the State Department and works on missiles. My kind of guy.

FP: Suppose we elect someone like Percy.

MS: I quarrel with the whole idea that war is the President's aberration. Let's take the case of Johnson. Now, Robert Vaughn, who is astute, says it's Johnson's war—it's his aberration. It makes you avert facing the truth—that the country may be imperialistic. Or the fact that the President may reflect a strong body of thinking. If President Johnson is such a good politician, and he's risking not being elected by keeping the war going, that means there's a group that wants to keep that war going, and he has to keep it going for them more than he wants to be President. And Robert Kennedy would rather be President than keep anything going.

Militarism is embodied in this country, the military industrial complex is imbedded to such a point where Michael Ward of the NSA said recently in Chicago that people who leave the CIA probably don't leave it. They probably keep meeting. They're some industrialists. They're circles within circles and secret groups within secret groups. The last President who opposed any of this was killed. And Garrison thinks he was killed for the finest thing he ever did.

This reverence we have for government has really gone somewhere in this country. Everybody's got a uniform in his closet, it's no longer alien and everybody says, "Well, the marchers broke the rule of the L.A. Police," or they say "Savio broke the campus rule." Bit reverence for laws in this country, suddenly. Ya broke the rules! You didn't shave at work, you didn't wear a tie. The rules. The rules. Everybody's worried about the rules.

FP: And when started everybody had a great distrust of the military, and said we will make no live standing armies.

MS: Like Mark Lane answered when they said to him "You're kind of far out,"—"Yes, next thing I'll be throwing tea into the harbor." So, you know, I think that it's all unconscionable—all of those people who went to the CIA birthday party know what's happening with the CIA. Garrison said that these people were former employees of the CIA who killed the President. He said, "...but they were not working in a CIA conspiracy." Why is the government going to such pains to protect them? When did this government become interested in individual rights? Those are individuals like a steamroller. States rights look better to me all the time. I don't like federal police. And even the FBI should be abolished, as Lane points out, or else Hoover should be replaced.

FP: Is a secret police compatible with a free society?

MS: Look what you've got. The draft is built in now, after 20 years. Nobody has anything to say. Gotta be drafted. This country doesn't believe in its future. It's wholly suicidal. And every liberal congressman voted for the draft, didn't he? Just about.

FP: Some people, who are far from being doctrinaire leftists, are saying now that what we have to have, and quickly, is a fundamental reorganization of our whole society. People are talking about a fixed minimum wage for everyone, a fixed minimum income, or rapidly evolving into a society where we simply help ourselves to goods. What is your point of view on all that?

MS: Well, to quote Garrison again, we're in danger of evolving a proto-Fascist state here, the population explosion has been convenient. It's helped us with our psychosis—in depersonalization, the end of romantic love, the end of an individual face on an individual—it's the group, the group, the group. If there's any reorganization of society it's not going to be the way Reagan wants it—the welfare people vs. the property owners.

People of excellence will have to be separated from the people who are not excellent, because it isn't a matter of some can fly and others cannot—it's unfair. It's that some can fly, and if they're penalized, none can fly. That's really what's happening. The society is falling all over the place—provide solutions, and if it's interested in survival, if somebody besides the kids are, hopefully, then of course there's going to have to be a reorganization.

FP: Then you feel that universal affluence and leisure for everybody really isn't enough?

MS: They think they can bribe the Chinese with it. They think with indoor plumbing and a Mustang they'll stop making war. Is it enough? Look at the people you know. Are they hollow? This is Saturday, Sunday's coming up, and boy, do they dread it. Panic city. The guy's building up his defenses with pro football and the beer cans—and the wife is going crazy. She'll hack off her hair, then she'll add a fall, and then she'll put fake nails on and then she'll take them off. It's another manifestation of what the hell am I doing here? It's been my sorry job to have to articulate that. I articulate in words what they suppress in thought.

And that's why they become so angry with me. Because I've said it. And every time it hits home, they become more angry. It's a sore spot. Their skin is thin. I intend to make the act tougher, if anything—I'm going to make it like clinging napalm so they can't sleep it off when the show goes off, so it clings to them all the way home and into the next day. Let them think about it, and if they don't like what they are, let them change. And eventually—as the Budd Shulbergs of the world say, "God, Mort, what do you want? You want us to die?" Yes. In some cases, I do. Go ahead, die, if that's all you can contribute. Because when they're around, they're parasites, sucking us dry. Most of us are anemic because of that. And it doesn't wash with me that they help some Negroes by giving them their old clothes. What about the Negro people? What about the American people? All separatist issues—stupid. It's even stupid to separate the men and women. What about the women, what about the—you know what it is. It's all the same bag. We're all lost here, as Thomas Wolfe said. I feel betrayed. My parents told me that if you fit in, you could have it all. You could have affluence, you

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could have pride, you could have romantic love—and there's nothing here. They knew it when they told me. I've been conned. They sold me this car and they knew it was going to throw a rod. Why did they do that? What kind of a sickness is it? You know, I can't find a group, man—I can't even find any people to march with. Talk about alienation. Where do you go? I can't play any of the games. Unfortunately, the movements are riddled through with people playing games anyway—that's what's wrong with them. The guy who burned the flag, unfortunately, is with the CIA—I'm sure he is. I don't know any kids who want to burn any flags.

FP: They must have staged that.

MS: Oh, sure. It's so obvious. Same thing with the Negro leaders. How do you like the liberals? "Oh, jeez... I was for the Negroes all the way, boy, but then they started this burning thing," incredible! I tell you that the next few months in New Orleans is the trial of the American people, and it's been lonely. It's been terrible. The last 13 months with Lane and Garrison have been a paradox, because it's never been worse. I can't find anyone to talk to. The readers are going to find this hard to believe, because people on the street always say, I want to go up and talk to that guy but I'm sure he's busy, or he'd put me down, or something else—but I have no one to talk to. I run around alone.

FP: What about the hippies? I've noticed that - well for want of a better word, the hippies are becoming a little bit hipper, a little bit more aware, and a little bit meaner. They've been beaten over the head a little, you know, and they're fighting better than they've been fighting in a long time.

MS: Largely, this is almost an extraneous issue, but I wish that they were more hip and less hippy-dippy, because the music's not there. I really miss the music. I hate to bring that in in the middle of individual rights and saving America... I really miss jazz. You can't put out another guy's newspaper. All that stuff about it's all from Muddy Waters, that's great, but you've got to cry out your own way when you get hip.

An awful lot of it looks to me like it's been dictated by Phil Spector. The musical values - and Don Kirschner. I hate all that stuff. I would really like to hear some music. It looks like it's establishment absorption, in other words, you can be as wild as you want, and dress as wild as you want, and you can live in a tribe if you want and grow your own vegetables, but bank at Security First National and have a business manager in the 9000 Sunset building and record for RCA. The music is - really, man, I don't think



Above: "The only thing I have against hippies is I can't read their posters." Below, with FP staffers Shirley and Paul Eberle and Jerene Anthony. Photos by Tony Anthony.



they're mocking anybody by walking out there in Marine Corps tunics - it looks like they're mocking themselves. It's like walking up to the richest guy in town on his way to the bank and making a face at him. It's that kind of mockery. It's not enough, man, it's their statement, but it's not enough. That's not what Castro did, and he dresses in an unorthodox fashion. I'd like to hear some music. I hear all of those words, I don't hear any music. And they're great words, they've got all the words - they're beyond hip, they're strung out like they're on their way to Lexington for the cure. Inside, inside language.

MS: Everybody's looking for a quick solution—a guy sits down with Les Crane, right, and he says, "well, man, I mean, what can I tell you?" Les says, "What are you people doing?"—as if he wanted to know, and the guy says, "well, we're all doing our own thing, I mean, you know what I mean, like it's happening." By that time three slick dress designers and the guy who designs Papermate pens are already trying to copyright the rebellion. So they cut out the forms and make paper dresses. And everybody's going to sell it—which is really the American disease—to try and copyright a sociological phenomenon.

FP: Dick Clark is filming a movie—I understand in the happy ending variety—they all leave Haight-Ashbury for Topeka and join the Chamber of Commerce.

MS: Well, unfortunately, I suppose a lot of them are going to do it. I imagine this is going to be very, very quick. It's like an instant movement. There's always the core and

then there's the people that join for their own purposes. That's really what's wrong with the movement—it doesn't serve the movement. There's a lot of pernicious—and, of course, the establishment hides that way. They say, "Yeah, yeah! That's what I object to. Affectation. Yeah, yeah."

That isn't what they object to. They object to the people who mean it, who are a real drag. They love affectation. They recognize it and embrace it. I hate those phonies. The fact of the matter is if a person is affected, or juvenile, they shouldn't even care. Walk up the street, who the hell cares, what's the difference?

FP: What about the tribal thing? Do you think people really want - or should want to be together all of the time?

MS: I don't know if they do or not. I never had that feeling. I had been married for ten years, I don't really want much to be with anybody most of the time. Sometimes . . . but the thing is is, I know one guy running a tribe up in the Bay Area and he used to be a Communist, so you know what I'm saying. He was in the middle of all of it. He really gets into it. He can go into any group and immediately have seven hash marks, so I doubt it. I wonder how long that kick will last. I find that they're not activist enough as groups, I'd like to see their impact felt on the establishment. Because while they're growing vegetables up in Stanislaus County, Johnson's dropping bombs and Reagan's getting ready to run for the Presidency. Those are the people that are drafting them. So I'd like to see them more active, but if the political activist thing is not their thing, who can say?

FP: Joe Dana, who puts out the Southern California Oracle, which you may have seen....

MS: Yeah!

FP: He said what we should do is simply not think about Vietnam, because it disturbs our tranquility of mind . . . he said it's a cancer and the more we direct our thoughts and our news media to the cancer, the greater the cancer becomes.

MS: COP-OUT! Cop-out! The difference is it's a monkey on your back and you're carrying him and trying to get rid of him and Dana's saying, don't tell me there's a monkey on your back. It's a cop-out. It's the same thing—it's

like the drug scene. It's all based on don't change the music, put some more cotton in your ears. They should get rid of that band! But it's arbitrary in America.

I really urge you to read the Playboy thing—there's a lot of food for thought there. It's the best thing they've ever done, and good for Hefner. Did you happen to see him on television this week? With Lee Bailey? It was awful.

FP: I won't watch Bailey any more because Bailey suddenly became a cop-out to me.

MS: It's quite interesting, you know—he said to Hefner, in line with what you're saying, "gee, I once wanted to work for Playboy"—you know, the dear departed days. Of course, it's funny cause he's famous now. He says, "When I got out of the Marine Corps in '54," which means he did the Korean thing, which means he's a young guy. But boy, with that vest, and that attitude, he looks like one of them, not one of us. Interesting, boy. And Susskind is running the show—and Susskind is another one. Where Susskind would sit with me in 1960 and say "Joe Kennedy is a Fascist, and Nixon and Kennedy are the same, and it's all Wall Street, and I'm not gonna vote," today he says, "the Negroes should go back to the ghetto and learn the word patience, I don't care how many people were killed in Indonesia as long as it stops communism, and the President's doing a wonderful job." And Susskind doesn't like people who don't believe the Warren Report—and he has liberal credentials, David Susskind. But mock debates. Max Rafferty vs. Timothy Leary—that's a debate of America. Right?

FP: Have you had any trouble with attempts on your life since the show has been off the air?

MS: Yeah. Two ways. One, overtly. I got into both the Cobra and the Rover I had and the rear wheel was loosened, so—I go down the hill about 45-miles-an-hour from my house—the wheel came off when I'm doing almost 50. It happened to both of those cars, and both those cars have a wheel that you've gotta make loose.

The other thing has been an attempt to discredit me. There's different ways to kill a guy. They've discredited me with the audience. They cut me off and then they say,

"What ever happened to that guy?" They don't let me work, and then they say "Oh, you know him." In fact, I'll quote to you, because I've had a lot of overt threats about employment—there are a lot of unguarded people in this town who made overt threats and I said it on the air. Lawford's manager, Milt Evans, who's still here in the William Morris building in Beverly Hills threatened me, told me I was never going to work in the country again—and largely due to Joseph Kennedy.

And he pretty much made his prophecy come true. I've had great difficulty since the assassination. Situations where you go on TV and they ask you to sign a waiver that you're not going to discuss it. Places where agents say to me, such as in New York a couple of weeks ago, "Well, as long as you're going to crusade, we don't want to do business with you."

Which is interesting. That's trying to find out who killed your President. That's happened to me repeatedly. I lost my program because of it, was fired by Metromedia four times, and each time that was the issue. Now it would seem to me that what I said on the air—I said I wouldn't shut up, I said they'd have to kill me, I said I wouldn't run away and I wouldn't join them—and it isn't because I'm crazy.

I'm not crazy in any way. It's much in the same—I don't think Christ was crazy. I think that he looked at the alternatives around him and found himself on the cross by default. I don't dig it up there. Of course, once in a while you have those supporters who stand around under the cross, waiting for some blood to drop on them so that they can be saints without risking anything by climbing up there. Those are the liberal candidates, all the people who use my program as a platform. The Peace candidates we have.

To get back to your question, it's done in John Corey's book, "The Manchester Affair," which is a report on Manchester and Bob Kennedy. He says Bob Kennedy never moved against Manchester overtly, he never said, "get him." What happened was at Bob Kennedy's table which is populated by senators, congressmen, judges and all the ambitious people, who want to be in good with the new president, Manchester's name comes up, and Bob Kennedy says "Oh, him?" and he just thumbs down on the thing, you know, "That guy's crazy," and it all filters down, and everybody knows what their job is. To document the charge, and stop that guy. And that's how it's done. In the most cowardly way possible. It's assassination by inference, and by all the below-the-belt weapons.

It is wholly unAmerican and the worst day in our lives was when wealthy men started to use the instrument of government as an instrument of vengeance. Because guys like Hearst, who were outside the government—these guys are in the government. Robert Kennedy has his enemies, but when he has the Justice Department to get even with them, I start worrying. Even if he would end the war, I don't know what the Administration would be like here at home. I don't know that there's any indication that he would end the war. Donald Duncan said to me recently, "I believe that Kennedy is more dangerous than Johnson." I asked why. "The Presidency is the application of power, and Johnson is an amateur."

So that's how it stands—a lot of people trying to put me out of work and I keep refusing to die. That's all I got is that weapon. Keep pressing. I'm going to take the show to New York and I'll be in the activist position, and while I'm on the stage that's where it ought to be. It's never better. No vice-presidents, just get up in the theatre and say it every night. And I suppose eventually, if we're lucky they'll all be back doing business with me again. It's amazing how hypocritical they are. They stop me from working for five years, Johnny Carson puts me on and I go on and I do the blackboard about the Social Democrats and an agent says to me, "Boy, I knew if you compromised and made it softer you could get back." And then the Mike Douglas show called and said, "Hey, that was great, because, you know, you eased off. Now that's a good square routine you can do for the midwest."

See how corrupt they are, man! And that's what I object to. That they sleep with the housewife in the midwest, they'll pick her pockets before she wakes up in the morning, and they have contempt for her—and I don't think you're entitled to all three.

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