

Jurisprudence**JUSTICE:****The Crisis of Law, Order, and Freedom in America**

by Richard Harris

*Dutton, 269 pp., \$6.95*

IF RICHARD M. NIXON emphasized any single domestic issue in the 1968 campaign it was "law and order," and—more specifically—the refrain that it was the courts and the Attorney General who were primarily responsible for the nation's increasing rate of crime. Nixon thereby implied that it was the task of the federal government to fight crime, even though the states and municipalities have always had the prime Constitutional responsibility for law enforcement. By thus playing up to the public's fear of crime, especially crime in the streets, black crime, demonstrations, riots, he exacerbated an issue that already had many Americans on the verge of terror, and which required, more than anything else, resources for and understanding of crime control, instead of slogans and simplifications.

When he took office Nixon brought to Washington his former law partner, John Mitchell, to serve in the overlapping roles of Attorney General of the United States and chief political adviser to the President. Law enforcement was subverted to political considerations, and the Justice Department became a political arm of the administration. This is the theme of Richard Harris's book. It is detailed, it is documented, and it is frightening.

I wish there were a way to treat the book with dispassion. But at a time like this I find that impossible. We have

just witnessed the travesty of justice represented by the conspiracy trial of the Chicago Seven, Vice President Agnew's attacks on the press, and the Justice Department's attempts to force journalists and major news organizations to divulge notes, unused tapes and films, and other documents pertaining to black militant organizations. We are now witnessing other efforts, originating with the administration and Congress, to dampen dissent and to crack down on political deviation.

Harris writes:

By the time the election was over, the contention [about law and order] had created in some people more fear about the fear of crime than about crime itself, because they interpreted the fervent cry for law and order, without an equally fervent cry for justice, as heralding a move toward repression and tyranny. In their view, once the people were sufficiently aroused over the threat of being engulfed by criminality and public disorders, they might be persuaded to set down their own Constitutional safeguards as the only way to preserve society, and thereby utterly destroy it.

I confess I'm one of those people, and that any doubts I had about the Justice Department were erased by the documentation of Harris's book. I read it first when it was serialized in *The New Yorker*, where it quickly developed a word-of-mouth reputation. I have now read it again. It made me even angrier the second time.

Harris is concerned primarily with the steps that the Justice Department under Mitchell took during the first year of the new administration to try to make good on Nixon's promises. Most of his material is beyond conjec-

## Your Literary I. Q.

Conducted by David M. Glixon

**P R O F E S S I O N A L S**

Each of the professions or ranks in Column 2 is part of the title of a literary work and refers to one of the characters in Column 1. Linda Garvey of Laramie, Wyoming, challenges you to make the correct associations and assign the right author. If you falter, there's help on page 41.

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|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Harvey Birch ( )        | A. artist     | a. Barrie     |
| 2. Stephen Dedalus ( )     | B. builder    | b. Cather     |
| 3. Gavin Dishart ( )       | C. doctor     | c. Cooper     |
| 4. Jack Easy ( )           | D. gambler    | d. Dostoevsky |
| 5. Alexey Ivanovitch ( )   | E. major      | e. Goldsmith  |
| 6. Willy Loman ( )         | F. midshipman | f. Hasek      |
| 7. Charles Primrose ( )    | G. minister   | g. Ibsen      |
| 8. Josef Schweik ( )       | H. professor  | h. Joyce      |
| 9. Halvard Solness ( )     | I. salesman   | i. Marryat    |
| 10. Godfrey St. Peter ( )  | J. soldier    | j. Miller     |
| 11. Barbara Undershaft ( ) | K. spy        | k. Pasternak  |
| 12. Yuri Zhivago ( )       | L. vicar      | l. Shaw       |