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EDITORIAL

Where We Stand

I am not the first editor to comment on the similarity of the United States to that of Germany of 1936 or 1937. What our citizens do during the next few years will determine just how far along the pattern of Germany we go. And the citizens must make the wise and all important decisions with almost no guidance of the editors or clergy.

In fact, the editors seem determined to do all they can to rush the country along Hitler's vicious path. The clergy, as usual, remains slavishly silent.

To review where we find ourselves today, we will recount some of the glaring efforts being made to thwart the work being done to discover who killed the President of the United States in 1963. There are events happening which are not yet in printable form. Yet these events continue with the complete connivance of the Federal authorities.

John Connally, the Governor of Texas, continues to refuse extradition for Sergia Arcacha Smith. The Governor of Ohio continues to refuse extradition for Gordon Novel, who has admitted that he was a CIA agent.

On TV in Dallas, Smith said he would destroy Jim Garrison. Such a threat carries a two to five year prison term, but the District Attorney of Dallas does not act.

Why is extradition refused on these men?
 The Governor of Texas, with the marks of the assassin

still on his body, has said in a recent letter to the Governor of Louisiana that he will permit the extradition of Sergia Arcacha Smith only under the uniform witness act rather than as a fugitive on a burglary conspiracy charge. The key to such a limited extradition is that Smith would then be free from arrest on the charges made by Garrison if Smith returned to Louisiana. So Connally (who has made some very loud noises about the crime rate) has thrown his weight in this case with the criminal.

Two Governors, Ohio and Texas, take the stand that the two men in their states who are charged with conspiracy to kill President Kennedy cannot be brought to the state having jurisdiction. And the Governors offer unbelievably flimsy excuses.

Enemies of the Garrison investigation have actually forced private contributors to raise the money to permit Garrison to continue his work. The newspapers aided by the FBI and the CIA intentionally questioned all persons whose names showed up on public expense vouchers issued by Garrison. Normally newspapers do not interfere with the work of a District Attorney by rushing into print with a story as soon as a district attorney spends money to check on a suspect. So Garrison had to use private contributions. Now the names of the contributors have been forced into the open in an effort to pressure the contributors to halt their money raising efforts.

The most sickening of all the efforts is that of Newsweek Magazine and its star reporter, Hugh Aynesworth of Dallas. Aynesworth who moved from the Dallas News to Newsweek, now attempts to discredit District Attorney Garrison.

At the time President Kennedy was killed, Aynesworth was the darling right-wing reporter of the Dallas Morning News. He covered the assassination, and was at all the important sites within minutes after each event. Aynesworth has boasted that he knows more than anyone about the assassination, yet he did not testify before the Warren Commission. (Had I possessed such vast knowledge about the assassination of our President, I would have testified or they would have had to drag me from the witness stand each morning when the Commission convened.)

Aynesworth covered the Ruby murder trial, and about this time moved into a position of unofficial leak for the Warren Commission. Choice bits of information were given to Aynesworth as rewards to both him and the Dallas News.

Aynesworth allegedly was chosen to be the person to handle the sale of the famed Oswald diary to the News. Early in 1964 the Warren Commission managed to get the document to Assistant Attorney William F. Alexander who then negotiated until he was sure of obtaining the maximum sum for its sale. Alexander sold to The News for a sum above \$50,000. Then Alexander left Dallas immediately for a vacation in New Orleans.

Aynesworth probably did have some insights to the assassination not privileged to other reporters. For about a month he was a close associate of Marina Oswald.

Soon after the Ruby trial Aynesworth left the News for his own public relations firm. Then he moved to Newsweek Magazine where as a self-pronounced expert he has a greater territory to misrepresent the assassination story. So we hope our readers will understand the regret we feel that such a small man has such a large magazine audience.

In Newsweek, May 15, 1967, Aynesworth uses the

words of Al Beaubouef as his prime evidence in his attack on Garrison. Al happens to be the same Al to whom the David Ferrie suicide note was addressed. Aynesworth's allegations are untrue. But his statements stand as the position of Newsweek. This presents an unbalanced picture to readers who are attempting to evaluate these most important matters for the welfare and the future of our country.

Disheartening too is the instance of the FBI who plead Executive Privilege before a New Orleans judge.

All Americans know that anyone can plead the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution at any time, but the extension of executive privilege to policemen is something new. Police officers in this country should not be able to hide evidence of the killing of a president by saying, "I have been told not to answer your questions."

Enormous pressures must have been put upon NBC to make them try the case of Clay Shaw over national television on Monday night. The show indicates to us that someone besides Jim Garrison is tremendously interested in Mr. Clay Shaw.

NBC seemed to be angry that Garrison had not divulged his entire case to the network. Garrison would be a poor prosecutor indeed if he exposed more evidence than he felt necessary when he obtained Shaw's indictment.

The DA has learned that he cannot trust most American newsmen with information concerning the assassination.

Notably missing from the TV presentation was any mention of the FBI pleading "Executive Privilege". Nor was any mention made of the two Governors who refuse to permit men in their states to return to Louisiana for trial in the conspiracy.
