



**ERIC HOFFER**  
On crime panel

## Eric Hoffer: Not Violent As a People

"Basically we are the most gentle, generous, law-abiding and cooperative people on earth. We are not violent!"

Longshoreman-philosopher Eric Hoffer thus took issue with a nation accusing itself today in the death of Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Hoffer received a personal phone call last night from President Johnson appointing him to a committee of distinguished Americans to investigate violence in the land.

"I have spent my life with people considered the most violent on earth," Hoffer said. "Skid row bums, migrant workers, longshoremen."

### 'SLANDEROUS'

"But I have never, never in my life seen a fight. These people, and Americans generally, are gentle and orderly and kind.

"We must not be hasty. To accuse America because an Arab from Jerusalem committed this crime is the most slanderous thing in the world. These glib confessions of guilt are wrong."

Hoffer acknowledged that statistically America's record looks bad, but that it is wrong to blame all Americans for the crimes of a few.

He is hopeful the Presidential commission will narrow down the root causes of violence.

### 'INFECTION'

"We must know where the violence comes from, and why. We must narrow down the spots of infection. When we know the causes, we will solve the problem, as we have solved other problems."

Hoffer told the President he considers himself "the last man in the country" who should be appointed to the commission on violence.

"I am not an expert on anything — but I am willing to do everything I can to help, especially when the President asks me."

## Funeral in St. Patrick's Saturday

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passengers on the flight to New York — family members, Kennedy friends and aides. Two passengers, former Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson and Los Angeles Rams lineman Roosevelt Grier, were the men who seized the accused assassin at the spot of the shooting.

Also aboard was an author, George Plimpton; an entertainer, Andy Williams; a mountain climber, James Whittaker; a friend and associate, former Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall.

They were the kind of people Robert Kennedy liked to travel among.