

The Murder Of Idealism

New York

Historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. said yesterday that with the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy the United States "has lost another part of its claim to civilization."

Schlesinger, a White House aide during the administrations of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, is now Albert Schweitzer professor of humanities at the City University of New York.

He said in a statement, "With the murder of Robert

Kennedy following the murder of his brother and the murder of Martin Luther King, we have killed the three greatest embodiments of our national idealism in this generation.

"Each murder has brought us one stage further in the downward spiral of moral degradation and social disintegration," he added.

Schlesinger said "Our Nation has lost more than its most promising leader. It has lost another part of its claim to civilization."

Reuters