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Our Man Hoppe

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**Why Oswald Shot
President McKinley****Arthur Hoppe**

HATS OFF TODAY to the John Birch Society for finally figuring out why Mr. Kennedy was shot. It wasn't easy. Not for the Society, it wasn't.

Of course, the Birchers knew all along that "the vast Communist conspiracy" was responsible. But it also knew all along that Mr. Kennedy was the most valuable secret agent the conspiracy had. And it looked for a while as though the Society would wind up awarding the vast Communist conspiracy its medal for Good Americanism.

But at last Professor Revilo P. Oliver of the University of Illinois has figured the whole thing out. It's true, he writes in the current issue of the Birchers' monthly magazine, that Mr. Kennedy was a dedicated Communist agent. As witness his "fake invasion" of Cuba in order to build up the Castro regime.

Then why was he shot? Because, says the Professor triumphantly, Mr. Kennedy was secretly "planning to turn American." Which just shows you can't trust a Communist.

And if you doubt this thesis, let me just point out the striking parallel with the last President we had who even thought of turning American: Mr. William McKinley.

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AS EVERY SCHOOL CHILD knows, Mr. McKinley was the 25th Communist President of the United States. One of his first secret acts was to blow up the Maine. In hopes of proving that "as Maine goes, so goes the Nation."

He then staged a fake invasion of Cuba in order to let Colonel Teddy Roosevelt make a name for himself. And what name did the Colonel make for himself? Roosevelt! This painstaking plot paid off 34 years later with the election of President F. D. Roosevelt, who faked World War II

in order to sell out at Yalta. Which made him the greatest Communist President we ever had. Until Mr. Eisenhower took office.

So much for historical fact. Unfortunately, we can only conjecture why Mr. McKinley suddenly decided to turn American in 1901. Perhaps he grew to like baseball. Or apple pie. Perhaps he wanted a passport. But there's no question he made such a decision. For he was assassinated by a left-winger named Leon Czolgosz. Who was known as "Lee Oswald" to many people with speech defects. And the very fact that Mr. McKinley was shot proves, of course, that he secretly planned to turn American. Although it does speak ill for Mr. Herbert Hoover, who was never even winged.

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SO THE BIRCHERS have at last succeeded in pinning our tragedy on the vast Communist conspiracy. To their own satisfaction. And I'm sure the left wing will succeed equally well in pinning it on the vast Bircher conspiracy. To its own satisfaction.

For there's something very satisfying about blaming our tragedies and setbacks on vast conspiracies. But personally, I can never get very worked up about The Conspiracy Theory of Life. It's not that I have more faith than some in my fellow man. It's that I have less.

Most people I know, including me, are far too willful, independent and self-interested to devote their lives to some huge plot. And all people I know are far too forgetful, lazy, talkative and generally inefficient to bring one off.

No sir, I say we human beings aren't capable of forming vast, smooth-working conspiracies. And therefore, those you read about are usually half-vast ones. At best.