



Washington

"The number of seriously disturbed people in the big cities is shocking. There are large numbers of them, and they are crazy. They are isolated, and more of the alone-in-the-crowd phenomenon."

That's one expert's reaction to the recent violence directed against President Ford. He is Gerald M. Caplan, who is director of the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

According to a study by social scientist Conrad V. Hassel of the behavioral science unit of the FBI National Academy in Washington, that lone-assassin theory holds value. Hassel says that would-be assassins, from the time of Andrew Jackson, have been deranged, lone individuals, not rational enough to be involved in a conspiracy.

"It is hogwash to believe that these men were part of a conspiracy."

Hassel has produced a profile of the typical assassin drawn from physical and psychological data of the assassins or would-be assassins of Jackson in 1835, Abraham Lincoln in 1865, James Garfield in 1881, William McKinley in 1901, Theodore Roosevelt in 1921, Franklin Roosevelt in 1933, Harry Truman in 1950, John Kennedy in 1963 — in addition to Martin Luther King in 1968, Robert Kennedy in 1968 and George Wallace in 1972.

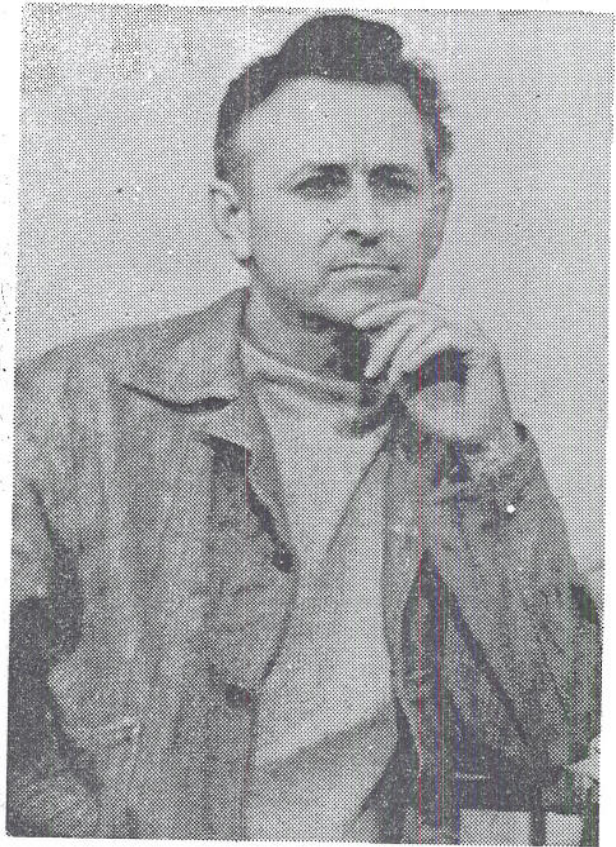
In the composite profile, the assassins were all men of small stature (except for John Wilkes Booth who was atypical in several respects), none had a strong masculine figure to identify with and each had a father who either mistreated him or abandoned him.

They all had strong domineering mothers and none had good relationships with women. Most, if not all, were so mentally ill that they could be classified

Arthur Bremer, who shot George Wallace, was used in the study

Profile of An Assassin

Oscar Collazo, left, who tried to kill President Truman, and James Earl Ray, right, convicted slayer of Martin Luther King



psychotic, and most performed murderous acts under strong delusions.

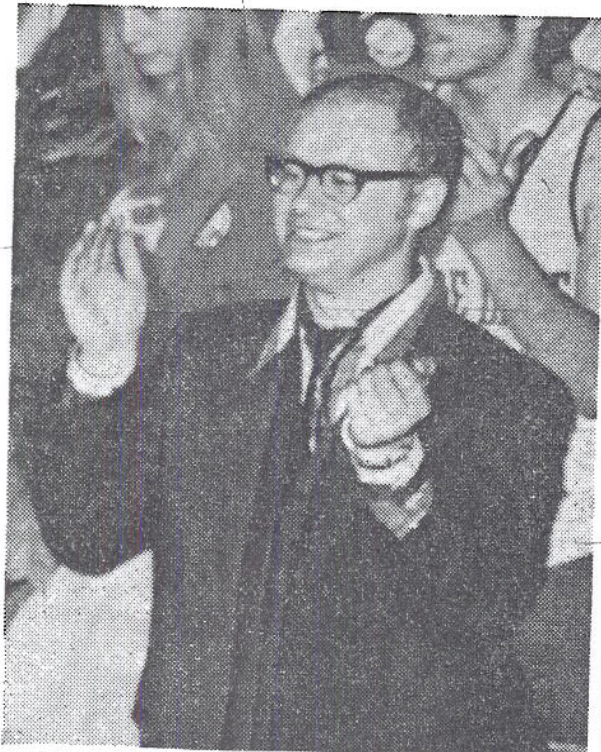
Booth thought he was the instrument of God. Andrew Jackson's would-be-assassin, Richard Lawrence, thought he was Richard III of England. Leon Czolgosz killed President McKinley, thinking his act would help the working man.

Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola tried to assassinate President Truman to achieve independence for Puerto Rico. Sirhan Sirhan, convicted of murdering Robert Kennedy, was punishing the senator for his pro-Israel views.

A political assassin, according to Hassel, has unrealistic expectations of achievement. Because of his lack of intelligence, social status and education, he simply can't make it.

His psychic trauma then becomes "politicized," and he attacks someone who has attained his goals. In essence, each would-be assassin is projecting a personal hate against an "ultimate authority figure."

Our Correspondent



Sirhan Sirhan, after being found guilty of killing Robert Kennedy