

BEG YOUR PARDON

On July 1, we ran a long reprinted story about a rich new oil field area in Indochina.* We now know the story is completely untrue, and we apologize for the faulty information we passed along.

The story originated in a Singapore bar, and was first printed in the Houston Chronicle. A big oil journal reprinted the Houston Chronicle story. Then the underground papers started reprinting the oil journal.

Senator Hart of Michigan has documented the story as completely false. We apologize to our readers for having fallen into the trap. We have banished our oil editor to the linotype for the rest of his natural life.

* FILED INDOCHINA/COMMENT.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Jones:

Please send me all 3 volumes of your book. I've read them but I like to see that many others do too. Bless you.

Also please send me a copy of the film, also "Farewell America" This will total \$30.00 plus The Midlothian Mirror for 2 years. The grand total should be \$42. for a wealth of information.

Thank you.

Doris L. Loftus

1436 4th St.

Sacramento, Cal. 95814

July 31, 1971

Dear Mr. Jones;

I just recently finished reading "Forgive My Grief" (Vol.I). I thought I would write you to let you know how much I liked it. It's nice to know there are editors like you around.

You know, when President Kennedy was assassinated, and when the Warren Report came out, I really wasn't much concerned with the whole affair. But then, I was only 8 years old when the President was assassinated, and 8 year olds aren't famous for being much concerned with the rest of the world. I don't remember, actually remember much of anything con-

cerning Kennedy. The only thing I actually remember is the teacher telling us one day that the President is dead. And that's really not much to remember about someone. It hasn't been 'til the past few years that I thought much about Kennedy. A while back I read an article in a special issue of Ramparts magazine, called "In the Shadow of Dallas," about 10 mysterious deaths surrounding the assassination (Bowers, Benavides, Koethe, etc.). I read the article in the morning, and that night I didn't sleep at all. Anyway, it was from that article that I knew to look for your name, so the next time I went to the library I got "Forgive My Grief."

So I wrote this letter to let you know I appreciate your work, and get some of these thoughts off my mind.

By the way, at the end of your book you ask some women who were taking pictures at Parkland Hospital to get in touch with you. Did they ever get in touch with you, and did you find out anything from the pictures?

Yours,
Peggy Moser

Sirs:

The startling revelations in the Pentagon papers make more urgent a quick decision on the type of trail necessary to bring Lyndon Johnson, the Pentagon chiefs of staff, Johnson's appropriate cabinet members and their collaborators to justice for their war crimes in invading Vietnam. Or is it only when a war is lost, such as the leaders in Nazi Germany and Japan during World War II, that the perpetrators of war crimes in their high capacities in government are punished.

This small but powerful group of men who took over our government at the death of John Kennedy are war criminals and this is undisputed. When Johnson insisted that Kennedy come to Texas in 1963 where he was killed, Kennedy had ordered one thousand advisors home from Vietnam by Christmas of 1963 and the remaining eleven thousand home by the end of 1964. Johnson's later actions confirm a marked change in Kennedy's withdrawal decision. Not one single soldier, much less one thousand, was brought home by Christmas of 1963

The question is will Johnson's group be tried and given appropriate punishment for their monstrous acts?

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Letters To The Editor

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and atrocities against mankind. Texans at least did nothing to prevent Johnson from rising to uncontrolled power and we Texans consequently owe a larger duty than others to bring the culpable to trail. For all Americans to remain silent a case can be made against us as accessories after the fact.

In his book, "Nuremberg and Vietnam: An American Tragedy", Telford Taylor, former U. S. chief counsel and prosecutor of the Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, suggests after careful investigation that the following U.S. actions in Vietnam can be considered war crimes: "forced resettlement of millions of rural families with utterly inadequate provisions for their health and human dignity; complicity in the torture of prisoners by our wards, the South Vietnamese; enthusiasm for body count overriding the laws of war on the taking of prisoners; devastation of large areas of the country in order to expose the insurgents; outlawry of every visible human being in the freefire zones; slaughter of villagers of Song My even to the infants-in-arms".

Hitler's Nazi accomplices were tried and some were given the death penalty under international laws promulgated by ourselves and our allies. These laws made for the preservation of civilization have been shown violated in Vietnam by Johnson and his associates using a war machine furnished by the taxpayers of this country. The Nuremberg laws must be brought to bear against them if we, as a nation, are going to prove to the world that who violate them, regardless of whether they are from the United States, Germany or Japan, will be prosecuted thus showing that we believe in equal treatment under the law whether the perpetrators be one of us or one of them.

A Congressional trial has been suggested, as well as a special tribunal such as the Nuremberg commission, to bring these people to trial. The national media is alive with discussions leading towards the bringing of the war criminals to the bar of justice and we Texans owe that special duty to at least come forward with our suggestions as to the modes and methods to bring the facts completely out and allow the hearing body to dispense proper judgment.

In addition to Lyndon Johnson's trial for his war atrocities, he must also be tried for violating the prime law of our land, the Constitution, which clearly and without equivocation gives Congress only the right to "declare war". The nonsensical argument that the Gulf of Tonkin resolution satisfies the constitutional requirements is utterly ridiculous. Every first year law student knows that a congressional resolution carries no legal weight whatsoever. It has absolutely not one iota of legal significance. A resolution is simply a polling of the opinions of Congress on a given subject. The simplistic argument that Congress has fulfilled its War Declaration duties by passing laws supplying and funding the troops is idiotic. The Constitution requires a positive declaration of war, not the negative act of passing funding laws not inconsistent with the President's illegal war.

Lyndon Johnson and his henchmen have violated our sacred constitution and his war crimes should not go unnoticed or unpunished.

We have an obligation to assess responsibility for what was done. This is not, as some former officials and their apologists are suggesting, a matter of finding "scapegoats" for the war, or of "witch-hunting". It is a matter of protecting our future. The Pentagon papers make clear

that crimes have been committed in our name-America hanged men in Nuremberg and Tokyo for conspiring to plan and wage aggressive war.

In addition we should make certain that men whose gross defects of both character and judgement now stand exposed before the world should have no further role in determining our destiny. Some of these men are

still in office. Some have withdrawn, temporarily, to the academies or the foundations or the corporations where they await their next turn at the levers of power. We must deprive them of that opportunity. The only way to deprive them is to ferret out and try them for their part in the war crimes as was done at Nuremberg.

Independent world historians will hold Lyndon Johnson, Walt Rastow, the Pentagon group, Dean Rusk and their collaborators on an equal footing and position with Hitler, Mussolini and their collaborators. Should we fail to bring these people to justice, our society, our country and ourselves will be held in disrepute by future generations. Thus we could be held equally responsible for their war crimes by our failure to pursue and prosecute those responsible for the Indochina atrocity. Unless Richard Nixon proceeds to forthwith withdraw our boys from this hellhole, he too should be brought to the identical bar of justice.

Very truly yours,
M. Changler Henderson