

DALLAS POLICE TO BLAME

Another Senseless Murder

Violence begets violence: one senseless assassination follows another tragic assassination.

The death of Lee Harvey Oswald by an assassin's bullet was senseless, sickening, and shameful.

Murder does not justify murder. The shot which ripped the suspect Oswald also severely wounded the reputation of American democratic institutions. Oswald did not receive protective safekeeping guaranteed to the accused before trial.

Undoubtedly Oswald was the most hated man in America Sunday. Americans did want to see dead the man guilty of the assassination of the President — but dead only if he was found guilty in a court of law after a fair trial in which the accused was protected by all of his constitutional rights.

Americans do believe that the freedoms and guarantees of our Constitution are meant for all men, but now the nauseating action by a second assassin, Jack Ruby, takes away the opportunity to prove the man's guilt according to the historical principles of American justice.

The second assassination was a

blow to all reasonable Americans who want trial by jury, government by consent, and life by justice, equality, and reason. America's image is blurred as the world looks at the tragic events of the 48-hour period. The West questions the stability of the American people in times of distress, which is of great import in the conduct of foreign policy. And the Communist world, anxious to cloud Oswald's allegiance to Marxist philosophies, is using the second murder as a propaganda weapon for all it is worth.

The Dallas police must take full blame for allowing the murder of Oswald. They dramatically proclaimed they were sure of his guilt and then publicly announced when and where they were going to move him — surely inviting an attack by moving him at a time convenient for television publicity. They failed to protect their prisoner.

The murder of the President is a staggering blow to the United States. But our government is geared to survive the shock. The nation will go on.

What it can not withstand is the violent undermining of the very basis of our democratic faith.