

Other Editors  
WRAL VIEWPOINT

### The Question of Guilt

The hysteria that has washed across America since the tragic death of President Kennedy seems to proclaim that the nation is a good deal sicker than most had imagined. All must hope, however, that merely the tirades of a minority are being heard, and that the majority of the American people are silent in their rational sadness.

All should pause to think. An effort is being made—and it grows more incredibly vociferous by the day—to equate disagreement with criminality, and independence with hatred.

That's the word! Hatred. How many times have you heard it in the past ten days, inevitably assigned recklessly and irresponsibly to those who dared to differ with a trend or an advocacy or an idea?

The American people need to be reminded that President Kennedy was not murdered by an assassin who was participating in the American tradition of debate.

The trigger was not pulled by a conservative, nor by what in the American political dialogue has come to be known as a "reactionary."

The President lies dead at the hands of a self-admitted Marxist and a self-described official of the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," a leftwing Castro-front organization.

And, yet, repeated charges are being heard that America must bear a "collective guilt" for the dastardly deed. A Senator who calls himself a "liberal" says that the responsibility lies "on the people of Dallas" because the tragedy occurred there and because there was much disaffection among the people of Dallas for some of the President's programs.

To contend that this created an atmosphere of encouragement for Lee Harvey Oswald is absurd logic, a crude and callous distortion of truth.

The assassin Oswald also despised the things that Barry Goldwater stands for. If it had been Goldwater lying dead beneath Oswald's hail of bullets, would there now be an outcry about "hatred"? No, the blame would simply be fixed upon a depraved agent of the communist conspiracy — perhaps self-appointed, perhaps not — and the matter dropped.

So, when our nation's highest judge says—as he did—that Kennedy's murder was stimulated by the "hatred and malevolence" that are "eating their way into the bloodstream of American life," where is his authority for the statement?

If America has a collective guilt, it must inevitably be traced to our tendency to misjudge the nature of our enemies. The death of the President is testimony to the fact that our internal security in this country is painfully inadequate—ironically at a time when so many have claimed that we are abusing the so-called "rights" of communists.

Perhaps we shall eventually learn the real, stark lesson of John Kennedy's death: It is time to stop coddling a criminal conspiracy as if it were a mere ineffective group of political non-conformists.

It is risky business to forecast what the fact-finding committee, appointed by President Johnson, will discover as it unravels the threads of a tragedy. But some things are known, though they are being ignored amidst the oratory about "hatred" and "extremism."

When Lee Harvey Oswald was taken into custody, there was a brief scene on television when he screamed that he wanted "Abt" to be his attorney. Later it was determined that Oswald was referring to John

Abt, whose last public appearance occurred last December when he served as chief counsel for the Communist Party in connection with its failure to register as an agent of the Soviet Union.

John Abt for many years was an employee of the federal government and it is known that he was a member of the first communist cell organization in Washington which, by a touch of irony, was headquartered less than a block away from the church where Mr. Kennedy's funeral services were conducted.

It is not our purpose to assign Kennedy's death to any political group or faction. But those who are now shouting so piously about "blood-stained hands" had better be careful. Who has been most critical of the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities? Who has scoffed most often at FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's warnings about the infiltration of communists into the American society?

Talk of unity cuts both ways. Suppose America had been united on the matter of keeping track of communists? Suppose we had been more inclined to recognize communist and communism for what they are? Would Lee Harvey Oswald then have been in a position to fire the shots that pitched John F. Kennedy into eternity?

If Americans share a common guilt, this is it. But America should feel no remorse because its people

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WILLIAMSTON ENTERPRISE

### The Negro's Responsibility

A. M. Secrest, publisher of the Cheraw (South Carolina) Chronicle, delivered a frank and remarkable speech to South Carolina Negro school teachers in the South Carolina town.

The speech was that of a man of good will, a man who has proved himself to be in sympathy with the aspirations and hopes of Negroes for opportunities.

Secrest is a Southerner who points up the responsibility of the Negro in his struggle to march forward.

The publisher did not condemn anyone for making protests, but he did explain that responsibility is a two-way thing.

"The white South is beginning to assume its responsibility," Secrest said. Continuing his remarks to the assembled teachers, Secrest said, "It is now your responsibility to see to it that your students are prepared to grasp these new opportunities and are ready to meet the duties and obligations of first class citizenship as well as to en-

gaged in a dialogue of conflicting political and philosophical views. Those who are so loudly shouting about "hatred" had best take care that they are not themselves consumed by it. Most of all, we had now all best stand together against a common enemy which, in one way or another, sent Lee Harvey Oswald to do the deed that shocked and saddened all true Americans.

joy its privileges."

Continuing, Secrest said, "Your most dangerous enemy is within... If you are tolerant of second-class performance within your own ranks, if you allow yourselves and your students to fall below certain standards of excellence, you will not overcome. Absenteeism, ignorance, sloth, immorality, school dropouts, delinquency; these are the real enemies of any people..."

One of the saddest aspects of the recent unrest in this area has been the apparent indifference to education, law and order and common courtesy, and the desertion of those who have worked together to

build a better community for the common good of all.

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