

The Chicago Seven

With the crime rate rising at an alarming rate, with the Mafia more wealthy than ever, with Washington D.C. recording three times as many violent crimes as four years ago and with police causing more crimes than they are preventing, it is comforting to know that the government has prosecuted the **REALLY** dangerous criminals in America — the Chicago Seven. The circus trial will end soon (not soon enough) in Chicago, but it is doomed to drag on and on in the form of appeals, perhaps for years. Senile Judge Hoffman's indiscriminate passing out of contempt charges will undoubtedly be appealed, and there will probably also be an plea for a mistrial. Regardless of the verdict, the eccentric behavior on the part of the defendants and the biased repression on the part of Judge Hoffman have made a mockery of United States justice.

What is even more degrading to U.S. justice is that, for all practical purposes, the defendants were not actually being tried for breaking the conspiracy law under which they were tried. They were on trial because of who they are, what they think and their very style of life. The trial was a reaction in jurisprudence of the government's and middle America's fear of today's shaggy haired, militant and critical youth. In a very real sense, the Chicago Seven trial was a conscious act by the U.S. government to harass the youth culture, a culture they interpret as dangerous to American government and society.

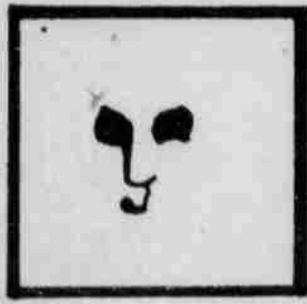
The trial was a government sanctioned, legal extension of the war between generations, between straights and non-straights which has been in progress for several years. It was an attempt to lend judicial prestige to the everyday occurrences which see colleges try to deprive students of an education for wearing long hair, business executives shout obscenities at war protesters and Atlanta police attempt to exterminate hippies by lawful manipulation. Defense attorney William Kunstler was painfully accurate when he said the case was not a question of today's law, but what would be the law tomorrow.

If U.S. citizens continue to let their government harass whatever groups in society it chooses, then those citizens had better be prepared to watch their freedoms melt away. Americans might do well to put into practice the quote on the Nebraska Capitol which reads, "The salvation of the state is the watchfulness in the citizen." If the citizens won't protect their own liberties, the government can legislate and enforce laws which regulate dress, hair style, occupation and culture. Then America wouldn't have to worry about overcoming that longstanding disease — intolerance.

—Jim Pedersen

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**EDIT
ORIAL**



Slouching toward Bethlehem

by FRANK MANKIEWICZ and
TOM BRADEN

Washington — The Vice President's speech last Thursday — in which he attacked college and university admissions policies as "a special kind of madness" — won a flood of favorable telegrams. The news is even worse than the speech.

University officials and faculty may wonder with Yeats "What rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches toward Bethlehem to be born?"

At Yale and Harvard, at Dartmouth and Princeton — to name a few of the country's ancient seats of learning — it is easier today for a black student to enter the freshman class than for a white of equal scholastic achievement.

THESE COLLEGS and others are trying desperately to reach a quota — that is, to achieve a student body roughly representative of the number of blacks in the nation — approximately 11%. It is not easy to reach this quota.

Chances must be taken; remedial work must be arranged. Volunteers must be found among students and faculty to bridge the gap which admissions officers find between black students' intelligence and their preparation — a gap opened up by two centuries of slavery, segregation and second-class ghetto education.

But the nation's private and public institutions have — by and large — bravely attempted to meet the challenge.

NOT ONLY COURAGE, but

perseverance — long hours of explaining to parents, alumni, students and trustees — has been necessary to enable them to set forth upon their task. And as black students entered — and frequently made outrageous demands — the job of these men has been Herculean.

The question that must be asked now is whether the goal they set is wrong. The Vice President of the United States has attacked it in language which goes straight to the jugular. "Would you like to be operated on," the Vice President has asked the nation, "by a man who was admitted to medical school as part of a quota?"

Despite some evidence to the contrary, Spiro Agnew is not a fool. He knows there is not a medical school in the country which would graduate a black doctor who could not fulfill its requirements, and no one proposes that they do so.

For that matter, there is not a liberal arts college or university which would graduate a black student who could not meet its standards.

THE QUESTION IS, what kind of America does the Vice President want? There are short-term votes among white parents who fear their children will be forced to shop among second-choice colleges and professional schools. There are even more votes among construction workers who see their jobs threatened by black apprentices.

Agnew appealed to these prejudices, President Nixon's "Philadelphia Plan" or no. If the Vice President means what he says, he will soon be two Americas, both armed.

President Nixon, who was elected — he says — to "bring us together," owes an apology to the educators and college officials who have been trying to save his country.

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