

We've done a bit of looking into who and what are behind the two columnists, Nowland Evans and Robert Novak, selections from whose attacks on SNCC and the MFDP are enclosed. We're by no means sure precisely how much weight should be given to these background facts, in appraising the significance of the Evans-Novak attack; on the other hand we're confident that the ancient maxim which says that a man's heart is where his treasure is, applies to some extent. We know that on occasion journalists will do things their employers do not like. Too, we know that, in the nature of things in the U.S., journalists cannot continue over long periods of time taking positions of which their employers disapprove. If they do, they get fired and are no longer journalists.

Thus we suppose that the men who employ Evans and Novak are factors of some significance in the columnists' year-long attack on SNCC. So let's see who and what they are.

Some of the Evans and Novak columns are copyrighted by the New York Herald Tribune, Inc., and some by the Publishers Newspaper Syndicate, Inc. This means that one or the other of these outfits pay the money for the columns which permits Evans and Novak to continue their tirades against SNCC and MFDP.

John Hay Whitney is the editor-in-chief, publisher, and owner of the New York Herald Tribune. He comes from a long line of "public servants". His paternal grandfather was Secretary of the Navy from 1885 to 1889; his maternal grandfather (and namesake, John Hay) was Secretary of State from 1898 to 1905. Whitney's father was a financier and industrialist connected with the Great Northern Paper Co., the First National Bank of New York (now First National City Bank), the Northern Finance Corp., and the United States Trust Co. The father described himself as a "capitalist"; one must presume that John Hay Whitney, inheriting his father's interests, continues in that honored and honorable tradition.

Whitney is a leading member of the Eastern Republican Establishment who "served" as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain during the Eisenhower Administration. He has a foundation of his own, the John Hay Whitney Foundation, which "provides Opportunity Fellowships for young men and women of exceptional promise who have been prevented by race, background, or other factors from realizing their potential." (Foundation Directory)

Whitney is also a trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a position he shares with other such peacemakers as T.N. Yntema of Ford Motors, Edgar F. Kaiser of Kaiser Industries, Arthur K. Watson of International Business Machines, Dillon Anderson of Monsanto Chemical Co. and Westinghouse Electric Corp., Norman Ramsay (an atomic physicist who helped develop the atom bomb), Howard C.

Petersen of the Panama Canal Company, Ellmore C. Patterson of Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., Otto L. Nelson Jr., of New York Life Insurance Co., Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, wife of the publisher of Time, Gabriel Hauge of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., Lawrence F. Hafstad of General Motors, and assorted financiers and war contractors. (This association is interesting, in light of Evans' and Novak's increasing concern, in their later columns, about cooperation between SNCC and other groups in protesting Lyndon's wars in various parts of the world.)

The Publishers Newspaper Syndicate, Inc., is a subsidiary of the Chicago Sun-Times which is controlled and operated by Marshall Field, Jr., grandson of the founder of Marshall Field & Co., Chicago department store. Field is President of Field Enterprises, Inc., (the family holding company), a director of Marshall Field & Co., a director of the First National Bank of Chicago and Vice-President of the Field Foundation, Inc. Adlai Stevenson, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, is President of the Field Foundation. The Foundation's major current interests are "child welfare and intercultural and interracial relations". It lists its net worth as \$37,847,302 (Foundation Directory).

The Foundation has been a large contributor to civil rights causes, including the SCLC citizenship training program, and the SNCC work-study program. One would suppose that with SNCC continuing to show its political teeth, as it were, the Field money will soon dry up. It doesn't seem likely that Mr. Field would turn the dogs loose on SNCC, through his newspapers, and at the same time invite SNCC to sit at the sumptuous table his father and grandfather provided for him.

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Lyndon's Food and Drug Administration got caught with a speck of its dirty linen showing a few days ago. This is the agency that's responsible for preventing the mass poisoning of citizens by the food and drug processors who are more concerned about profits than they are about health and good nutrition. Thus far the agency has been able to avoid mass poisoning, but now and then one of the companies will slip through a profitable deal that costs the lives of scores of citizens. One such recent deal came out in a congressional hearing. A drug company has been selling to doctors a drug for the treatment of dropsy. In the ten months ending May 5 FDA knew of 311 persons who had taken the drug on a doctor's prescription, and had developed ulcers of the small intestine. Fifteen of them, at least, died from the effects of the drug.

The first report of ulcers from the drug was received by FDA last July. In the next four months FDA received reports of another 100 such cases. Finally, as the cases continued to mount, FDA called a meeting with the company producing the drug, to decide what to do about it. The company and FDA worked out a deal whereby the company would send notices to doctors about the dangers of the drug. Then, the company had an expert write an article to be published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Reprints of the article were sent out to doctors by the company. But, the company sent them as third-class, junk mail, which seldom gets read by its addressees.

Here was a company which had put on the market a drug dangerous to human life and, when caught in the act by the agency supposed to police it, the company, with the agency's agreement, undertook not a nationwide publicity campaign to be sure that no one would use the drug again, but to mail out an article written for AMA Journal, which doctors may or may not read, and which the general public does not read. And they mailed it in the same kind of envelopes that ordinary junk mail comes in. The mailing was done by a commercial mailing firm; the company couldn't even be bothered to mail the warning itself.

At his writing, the drug remains in circulation. Of course, those doctors who read the AMA article, or who bother to open all their junk mail, may not give it to anyone. Others may, and more people may die from it.

What's the name of the drug company that Lyndon's FDA was so gentle with? In case Lyndon doesn't know, he could phone his Secretary of Commerce, John T. Connor. Mr. Connor came to work for Lyndon from the same company - Merck & Co. We won't bother to list the other officials of the company, because we had occasion to do so not many weeks ago.

Suffice to say they are all honorable men, who love their children and who do not beat their wives.

But, you see, they're businessmen and sometimes profit requires a sacrifice. Whose sacrifice? A troublesome question.

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General Motors had cause to be well-satisfied last week with Lyndon's foreign aid program. There was a strike in the GM plant in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Union members were protesting the dismissal of some union officials. They took over the plant and said they were going to prevent its operation until the union officials were rehired. But GM knew how to handle them. GM officials merely called the local troops.

The troops, having been trained by the International Police Academy in how to deal with "subversives", found that the same methods Lyndon had taught them to use on "subversives" worked with union members who weren't docile enough to suit their bosses. The troops showed up with water and gas trucks, cavalry, and rifle-carrying infantry. Two of the workers were wounded, but that didn't matter; next morning the GM plant opened on schedule and all the workers behaved themselves.

Lyndon Johnson rode again.

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The New York Times reports that about 75,000 military, police and civilian employees are on the payroll of the military junta we say we're not supporting in Santo Domingo. But, notwithstanding

what we say, we're putting up the money to meet the junta's payroll. It cost us about \$5 million this week. There was some talk about cutting the pay in half in order to lessen the burden on the U.S. taxpayers, but the objection was that if it were done, the employees would surely become sympathetic with the rebels. So Lyndon's dollars continue the political support of the Imbert junta while his public relations experts piously talk about U.S. impartiality.

Meanwhile, the two Rockefeller banks, whose offices were located in the rebel-held section of Santo Domingo, opened for business in the "International Zone" which is being maintained by American troops. They were urged by the U.S. Embassy to open up and assured of military protection. The Times reports they're just as pleased as punch about the way business is booming for them. The banks, in case anybody's forgotten, are Chase Manhattan and First National City. Mark them down as real friends of the people - along with Lyndon.

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Lyndon has appointed his old friend Ed Clark, from Austin, as Ambassador to Australia. Clark, we're told by folks we know in Austin, is the most powerful lobbyist that operates on the Texas legislature. He's reputed to have a majority (31) of the Texas Senators in his pocket. He represents the trucking and some oil interests in his lobbying. When' he's not buying Senators, he hangs out at the Capital National Bank of Austin, where he's Chairman of the Board. He is also a lawyer, senior partner in the firm of Clark, Thomas, Harris, Denius & Winters, which represents mainly banks and utilities companies, but also is attorney for Lyndon's TV and radio empire in Texas.

It was Clark's son-in-law, Douglas Wynne, of Greenville, Mississippi, who, as a member of the racist regular Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention last August, argued for taking the loyalty oath so as not to embarrass Lyndon by having the regular delegation walk out.

He sounds the perfect type to represent Lyndon and the American government in Australia. In other words, he's Great Society.

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Back in April and early May we reported on a controversy that was developing in the House Banking and Currency Committee, chaired by Congressman Wright Patman. We noted that Patman has been investigating the banking business and that he has been calling for legislation to amend the Bank Holding Company Act so as to bring a bank holding company called Financial General Corporation under its provisions.

A week after that we reported on some hearings Patman held in which he charged that a loan-shark outfit called Federal Services Finance Corporation was connected with Financial General Corporation,

and that the Finance Corporation was preying on servicemen. We documented that the two were connected through interlocking directorates, and that, Congressman Howard W. Smith, Chairman of the House Rules Committee, was an employee of Financial General Corporation as Chairman of the Alexandria National Bank, which Financial General controls.

Now we find that Financial General Corporation and Federal Services Finance Corporation are still involved in the argument with Patman. When Patman made his charges in late April that Federal Services was a loan-shark outfit, the officials of the company heatedly denied it. So Patman went out and got some witnesses to testify to the practices of the company.

One serviceman, in the air force, told about being overcharged more than \$500 by Federal Services. A former employee of Federal Services (who said he got fired because he questioned the filthy way they handled their business) said that Federal Services got borrowers to sign papers in blank, and then added charges that the borrowers knew nothing about. He said he spent much of his time with the company explaining, or trying to explain, to customers why they owed so much more than they thought they did.

The former employee said that for years Federal Services was the only company financing automobiles for servicemen, and that the company collects on debts by sending letters to the commanding officers of its servicemen customers. The letters are a particular inducement to the commanding officers, because the company always manages to have some old retired admirals and generals among its officers and directors. As a matter of fact, Lyndon's Secretary of the Army, Stephen Ailes, is a stockholder in the company and has been for the past nine years.

This employee said that one cute trick the Federal Services Finance Corporation pulled on the servicemen who were helpless to do anything about it, was to repossess cars, turn them over to a subsidiary, Wheels, Inc., and sell them for the best price they could get; then, the company would twist the serviceman's arm, through his commanding officer, to pay the balance on the car, even though they had gotten all their money and more out of the resale.

One of the members of Patman's committee raised a very intriguing question - he asked whether the board of directors of Federal Services knew what was going on. The employee said that the Washington office knew everything that was going on in the field. "It was like a military organization," he said. "The Washington office would be equivalent to the Pentagon."

Sort of sheds a new light on war and the military doesn't it? The soldiers out in the field are fighting to stay alive, while back on the home front, the admirals and generals and politicians and businessmen are figuring out ways to gyp the soldiers out of their pay.

Pin a medal on 'em while you pick their pockets- that's soldierin' in the Great Society.

June 17, 1965
Jack Minnis