

Public Reaction

Riflemen Fire Back

To The Editor:

Wherever did you get the notion that The National Rifle Association urged Americans to form civilian posses on their own and recommended that they arm themselves with sledges, ax handles, or anything else?

The NRA not only has done nothing of the kind but is firmly on record against any such thing. It stated its policy in *The American Rifleman*, October, 1964, page 73, where it said:

"The NRA does not approve or support any group activities that properly belong to the national defense or the police.

"The NRA does not approve or support any group that by force, violence, or subversion seeks to overthrow the Government and take the law into its own hands, or that endorses or espouses doctrines of operation in an extralegal manner."

The NRA is not, of course, responsible for misinterpretations of what it says or publishes. The responsibility there rests on those who do the misinterpreting, or so it would seem.

The *New York Times*, which originated much of this unfounded and unwarranted "news", admitted that it "reported erroneously" on part of the subject and published a lengthy statement of the NRA's true position.

ASHELY HALSEY, JR., Editor
The American Rifleman.

To The Editor:

I read Clarke Ash's article concerning the desire of responsible law enforcement officials and a judge to increase the penalties for the misuse of firearms. I congratulate you on supporting this matter and am very pleased to learn that those departments of government concerned with the misuse of firearms are now interested in making the penalties for misuse much more stringent. This will do more to reduce crimes of violence than all gun laws which can possibly be passed.

In the same issue, I take notice of the Wright cartoon. I admire Mr. Wright's ability and think his Pulitzer prize well deserved. However, I am shocked at his poor taste in this instance.

That there are certain irresponsible members in the firearms industry cannot be denied. Nevertheless, I take exception to Mr. Wright indicating that an assassin, an irresponsible merchant, and the National Rifle Association Of America are one and the same. As a member in good standing in the National Rifle Association, very frankly, I am personally insulted that your newspaper would associate me as one and the same with the late Mr. Oswald.

EDWARD G. DAVIES, Miami