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COVER—© JACQUES LOWE 2A—CO RENTMEESTER 2B—cartoon by LURIE 4, 5—TAKAYUKI OGAWA 6—HAROLD STRAUSS; bot. HANS NAMUTH from PHOTO RESEARCHERS, DAVID GAHR 7—LIZ WILCOX—BURT GLINN from MAGNUM 8—MUKY 18, 19—drawing by BURT SILVERMAN 20 through 25—photographs by HARRY BENSON 26—JOHN OLSON 36, 37—HUBERT LE CAMPION—SETTIMIO GARRITANO from LIAISON, BILL RAY 38, 39—PIERRE BOULAT (2)—KEYSTONE, SETTIMIO GARRITANO from LIAISON 40, 41—HUBERT LE CAMPION 42, 43—ALAN PAPPE from LEE GROSS 44, 45—© JACQUES LOWE 46, 47—CECIL STOUGHTON 48—PAUL SCHUTZER 51—ABBIE ROWE 53—DAVE POWERS 55—STAN WAYMAN 56—BILL EPPRIDGE 58 through 61—STAN WAYMAN 62A through 64—JOHN DOMINIS

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## Portrait of a system that is breaking down

Correspondent Dale Wittner, who wrote this week's story on the nation's crowded courts, returned to the United States last fall from our Hong Kong bureau.

"After almost two years in Asia—a lot of it in Vietnam," says Wittner, "America seemed an awfully safe and familiar place to be coming home to. But it didn't turn out that way. Although I'd kept up with events at home while I was in Hong Kong, I was astonished at the depths of bitterness, hostility and suspicion I found when I returned. Taking a close look at the administration of criminal justice in the cities helped me to understand this confrontation. Obviously, the conflicting claims of law and order and equal justice meet in the courthouse. But the U.S. court system is overburdened and fast breaking down.

"The major stumbling block in covering the story was that photographers were not allowed in the courtrooms. So we assigned Artists David Levine and Burt Silverman to cover the Manhattan Criminal Court Building. Their drawings capture the chaos and desperation of New York's courtrooms. Photographer Harry Benson did some outside work for us, covering crowded jail cells and chronicling the harried life of a young assistant district attorney.

"Nobody I talked to tried to defend the system, but the older judges and prosecutors, the people who could put the most pressure on the state legislatures, seem unable to see beyond the daily burdens and frustrations of their jobs. They have become completely conditioned. Yet every day they preside over scenes of utter confusion. I talked to defendants who didn't even know what stage their proceedings had reached. I met a man who had just been tried on a weapons charge who didn't know whether he had been found guilty or not guilty. Another defendant lost a motion for a reduction in bail—the judge and the prosecutor thought he was somebody else.

"Depressed as I was by the arbitrary proceedings of most of the courts I visited, I met some people on the story far more distraught than I. One day I ran into a Columbia University law student in a Bronx courthouse. He had just visited four courtrooms and he was shaking with rage. 'They have no right to fly the American flag in those courts,' he cried."



DALE WITTNER

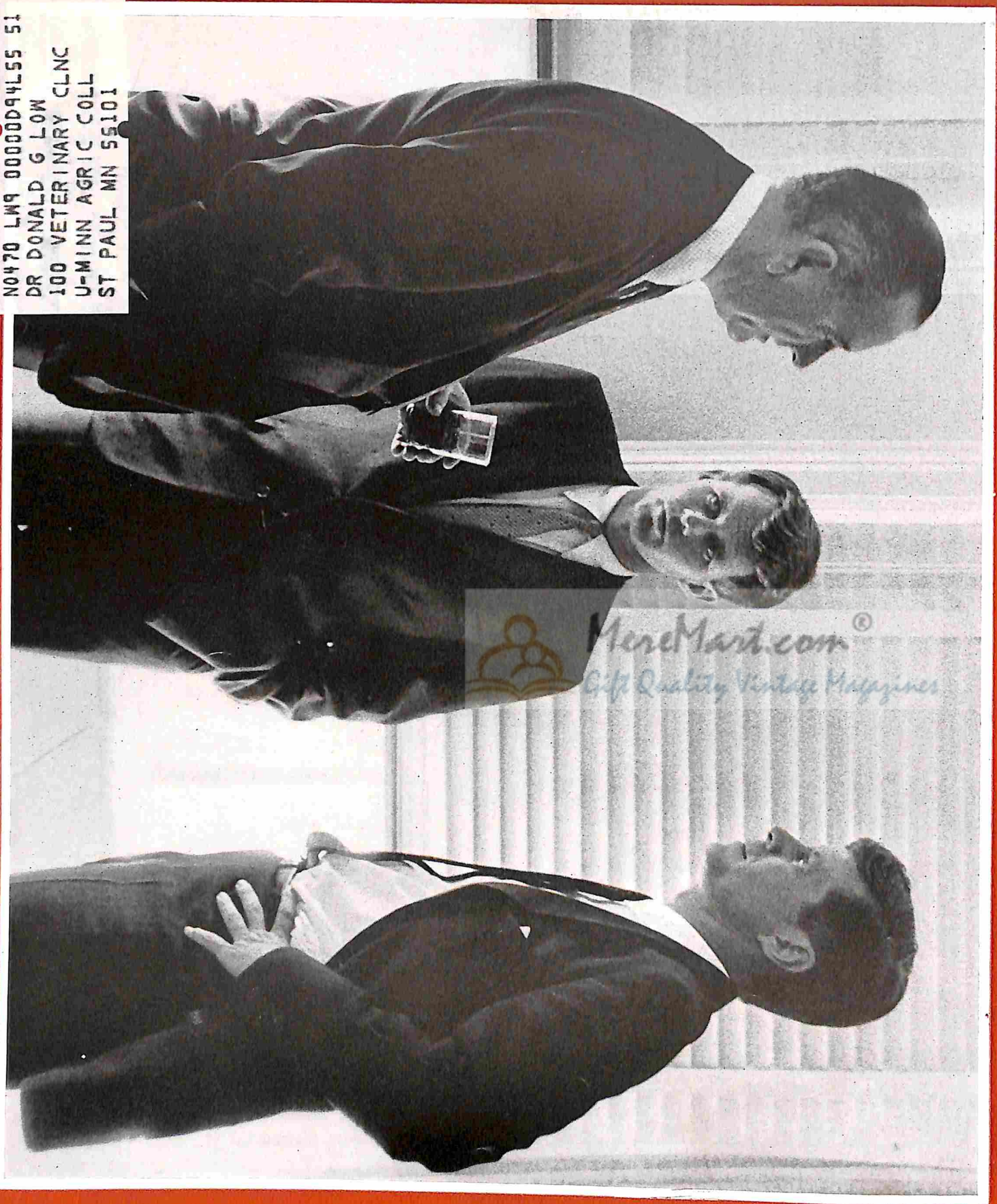
*Ralph Graves*  
RALPH GRAVES  
Managing Editor

# LIFE

- Why LBJ was really picked
- How the Kennedys managed him
- LBJ's feud with Bobby

An intimate report by Kenneth O'Donnell

## JOHNSON AND THE KENNEDYS



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At the 1960 convention Lyndon Johnson  
discusses the Vice Presidency offer with the Kennedy brothers

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