

NOVEMBER 3, 1967

## *Rips Book as 'Tragic Slur' on Black Hero Nat Turner*

**THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER** by William Styron  
Random House, publishers; New York City  
428 pgs. \$6.85

By Prescott Press

William Styron has committed one of the most vicious literary crimes against black Americans in his latest novel, **THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER**.

HE HAS taken one of our national unsung black heroes and deliberately turned him into (1) a religious fanatic and (2) a coward having homosexual tendencies with a passion for a woman he killed during the revolt.

The tragedy of this 428-page novel doesn't stop there. Mr. Styron had the gall to write this piece about Nat Turner in the first person. Styron, a white man born in the South—the grandson of slave owners—dares to attempt to put himself in the shoes of a black slave.

This is unadulterated nonsense because no white man, born in the South or the North, can presume to think and act like a black man.

The result is that Nat Turner becomes the figment of Styron's imagination, embellished with the white man's prejudices and preconceived notions—now discredited—about black people.

**ORDINARILY**, this could be shrugged off as just another slur against black Americans. But the tragedy is that many Americans, especially whites, will accept this fiction lightly laced with some truth as historical fact.

People everywhere should have the facts—before, during and after—about Nat Turner's revolt against naked horror of slavery in America.