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Re: IT IS TIME TO RECONCILE OUR INTERNECINE DIFFERENCES
vince. If you're issuing a call for reconciliation, why leave RATHER REZGERAD on the mailing list? Seems like the quality of your work would greatly improve if you could mend that particular fence. I've always had mixed feelings myself about the conferences, but they do bring people together, they offer opportunities to present new information, as well as opportunities for some healthy give and take discussions. I have heard every conference bad-mouthed to some degree, and it seems kind of pointless. I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has made the effort to organize conferences. We owe them a major debt of gratitude. I also agree that in-fighting can be destructive, and flaming cheapens the debate. At the same time, a vigorous debate helps us winnow out the misinformation, and get closer to the truth of this case. Maybe some people are thinking of the research community assimilar to the anti-war movement: if we could only reconcile our differences and pull our full strength together, we could end this war. I remember all that very clearly. But our unity is around a negative: the Warren Report got it wrong. When it comes to what we are for, we are divided into many smaller groups. We were able to unify to some degree to push for the HSCA investigation, and even better for the JFK Records Act. Those are the kinds of things we can all agree on and have a strong chance of accomplishing. Instead of general calls for unity, maybe we should ponder which issues we can fruitfully work together on, accepting that there will continue to be theoretical differences galore. Back in the Sixties, the anti-war movement was incredibly diverse; as Abbie Hoffman said about his co-defendants in the Chicago 8 trial, "We couldn't agree on lunch," but they were able to work out strategies together nonetheless. We can do the same thing. I would disagree that newsgroup disputes give the media fuel for the fire. I doubt that the media pays much attention to them, if any. If they do, they certainly don't mention it. I have a lot of trouble understanding why you've attacked Lancer at all, given the opportunities you concede they've given you. Andy at Last Hurrah has long been a major asset to the research community. Has anyone noticed that he sells things? And yet, Lancer is constantly being criticized as too commercial, yet they are making batches of documents available at reasonable costs, among other materials, publishing books that otherwise might not be available, and doing the work of organizing conferences--and making full sets of videos of those conferences available. I'm delighted Lancer is around. I'd be very depressed if they gave in to the criticism and folded their tent. We'd be nuts to do anything to bring that about. Lancer is a little like COPA with a publishing arm. If they fold, you might see what kind of response you get from Random House. You might even get a personal letter from Robert Loomis, like Walt Brown did: Thank you, but your book is not within the confines of acceptable discussion. I have something in the Lancer catalog. I'm proud of that fact. I

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