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THE BOOKSHELF

New Speculation on Oswald Case

BY EARL GOLZ

LESS THAN four hours after Lee Harvey Oswald was taken into custody on the day of President Kennedy's assassination, a deputy sheriff of Dallas county identified him in a most amazing way.

Roger D. Craig said he had seen Oswald running down the grassy slope from the Texas Book Depository building about 15 minutes after the shots were fired.

Oswald got into a station wagon driven by another man; Craig said, and the vehicle drove away down the same street on which the president was assassinated.

This story sounds incredible because the Warren commission concluded a conspiracy was not involved in the assassination. The commission said Craig could not have seen Oswald enter the station wagon "because of overwhelming evidence that Oswald was far away from the building (Texas Book Depository) by that time."

THE COMMISSION'S timetable on Oswald's trip from the depository to his room across town placed him at an intersection four blocks from the depository at that time, getting off a bus.

Craig's statement, given to the federal bureau of investigation on Nov. 22, 1963, raises some chilling speculation in "Rush to Judgment," another book critical of the Warren commission's findings.

The book was written by Mark Lane, a New York lawyer who originally had been retained by Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, to defend her dead son before the commission.

Craig's story is even more startling because Oswald apparently acknowledged he was the man Craig saw. Lane, however, offers to clarify what could be a vital bit of

He notes that Craig claimed to have confronted Oswald during interrogation by other law officers and identified him as the person who got into the station wagon.

DALLAS POLICE Capt. J. Will Fritz reportedly turned to Oswald and asked him "What about this station wagon?"

Craig said Oswald interrupted Fritz and said, "That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine . . . don't try to tie her into this. She had nothing to do with it."

(Oswald's wife and daughters lived at the home of Mrs. Ruth Paine in Irving, Tex. Mrs. Paine had testified she got Oswald the job at the book depository.)

Was Oswald admitting he got into a station wagon driven by another man? Lane doesn't elaborate.

He continues that Fritz told Oswald: "All we're trying to do is find out what happened, and this man saw you leave from the scene."

Oswald replied: "I told you people I did . . . everybody will know who I am now."

Lane, who uses irony skillfully, also missed Fritz's dismissal of Craig's story.

"One deputy sheriff who started to talk to me but he was telling me some things that I knew wouldn't help us and I didn't talk to him but someone else took an affidavit from him. His story that he was telling didn't fit with what we knew to be true," Fritz testified.

In most other situations, however, Lane comes across with shockers whenever he has the opportunity. Much of his case is made from information in 26 volumes of evidence that was not included in the more widely read 885 page Warren report.

AS PROF. Trevor Roper, a prominent English historian, wrote in the book's preface, to follow the same ques-

the shorter report and its summary "is to see, sometimes, a quiet transformation of evidence."

For example, Lane cites the testimony of Mrs. Earlene Roberts, housekeeper at the rooming house where Oswald lived. After Oswald entered the rooming house less than an hour after the assassination, Mrs. Roberts testified a police car stopped in front and the horn sounded twice. Two uniformed policemen were in the car, she said.

"The commission concluded that 'it is apparent from Mrs. Roberts' further testimony that she did not see Oswald enter a car when he hurriedly left the house,'" Lane wrote. "This cannot satisfactorily explain why a police car stopped in front of Oswald's dwelling or why the policemen sounded the horn twice and then drove away before he came out."

Lane's book is one of five published in the last year, all asserting the Warren commission may have not dispelled the possibility of a conspiracy. A sixth book, "The Oswald Affair" by Leo Sauvage, a French newspaper correspondent in America, is due to be published in this country next month. In addition, a hard hitting article in Ramparts magazine—put together after months of research in the Dallas area—is also scheduled for appearance soon.

Some critics have claimed that the massiveness of the Warren report simply overwhelmed any challenge. Their voluminous counter, still growing, may force a re-opening of the investigation.

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