

Lane attacks accuracy of assassination inquiry

By Barbara Goodhill

10/10/66
"The period of debate is passed. The majority of the American people can no longer accept the results of the Warren Commission Report," commission critic Mark Lane said.

Lane, a practicing lawyer and one-time member of the New York state legislature, is the author of "Rush to Judgment," a book in which he describes the Warren Commission's inquiry as a "hasty and incomplete effort."

A capacity crowd filled the Student Union Grand Ballroom Friday, as Lane discussed what he called the "Neanderthal mind" of the American press. For two and a half years, Lane noted, not one critical examination of the Warren Commission's Report has been allowed on either a radio or television program.

Continued and intense concern

Lane said that throughout the world there has been continued and intense concern. Despite this fact, our most important media have refused publicly to doubt the accuracy of the report. "The one community in which it is possible to talk with people who are interested in the facts is the university campus," Lane said.

According to Lane, the Warren Commission has done "a disservice to the truth and to the memory of President John F. Kennedy by publishing a fraudulent report on his death."

Lane said that the Commission ignored or distorted all evidence which didn't agree with the basic premise that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin, and that he acted alone. The Warren Commission, basing their report upon this assumption, said that the bullet which killed the President could only have been fired from behind. Oswald was presumably standing at a sixth story window of the Book Depository Building, which the President's motorcade had passed at the moment of the shooting.

Direct contradict

This statement is in direct contradiction to the findings of the doctors involved, Lane noted. According to these doctors, it is a medical fact that an entrance wound can be distinguished from an exit wound; and the autopsy found that the wound at the back of Kennedy's neck had all the accepted characteristics of an exit wound.

Due to programming difficulties and university regulations regarding advance notice, the proposed debate between Mark Lane and Prof. Wesley Liebeler has tentatively been scheduled for Jan. 25, 1967 according to information made available late Sunday.

Although Lane has agreed to that date, Prof. Liebeler was unavailable for comment during the weekend, and final arrangements, including the possibility of national television, cannot be made until word is received from Liebeler.

A picture of Oswald holding the alleged murder weapon was used by the Commission as proof that it was his rifle.

Explaining that Oswald was an expert photographer, Lane quoted him as saying that he (Oswald) would prove that this photograph had been "doctored up."

Lane concluded by saying that "we are now entering a new stage in reference to the Warren Commission Report." He addressed himself to the university community, and asked students to begin a massive petition campaign to President Lyndon Johnson. This petition would demand a reopening of the investigation, and an unlocking of the documents which have been placed in the National Archives, not to be released for public view until September 2039. (Johnson made this policy on the belief that these documents could be harmful to people now alive. By the year 2039, no one will be left to be harmed. Lane's reply to this was that the documents could only harm the assassins.)

Lane's final statement was an appeal to the students of the universities to sign this petition, and to take it before Johnson this Nov. 22.