

Controversial Lee Harvey Oswald photo in spotlight

By Roz Davis
DB Associate City Editor

A much-discussed photograph of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald has again been brought to public attention.

At last week's debate between Mark Lane, Warren Commission critic, and UCLA law prof. Wesley Liebeler, Liebeler displayed a blown-up photograph portraying a man in a similar pose to that of Oswald in the picture used as the cover for the Feb. 21, 1964 issue of Life magazine.

According to Liebeler, who was one of the 14 assistant counsels to the Warren Commission, the only reason he showed the picture was to demonstrate that it was possible to take a picture and produce the controversial conflicting shadows.

However, Raymond Marcus, author of "The Bastard Bullet," who describes himself as "a private citizen with an independent mind" said that Liebeler's presentation of the photograph was "tantamount to the perpetration of a hoax."

Accurate representation?
Marcus said that Liebeler attempted to convince the audience that the picture was an accurate representation of the Oswald picture, while Marcus claims it was not.

The Oswald photograph in question has been a point of objection for many Commission critics. According to Marcus, 75 per cent of the professional photographers he questioned said flatly that the Oswald photograph was a phoney. Marcus said that the shadows in ques-

tion were the one under the nose and the body shadow. The dispute arose over whether the straight shadow under the nose was congruent with the body shadow which was at an angle. Marcus said that he has attempted to get similar shadows in photographs he has taken

and added that he has never been successful. The purpose of Liebeler's photographic display was "obviously to prove that the Oswald photograph was legitimate," according to Marcus.

Liebeler said that the photographs were not exactly the same, but that they were very similar. He noted that the date the photographs were taken was not the same, that the man in Liebeler's photograph had more hair and smaller ears, causing one ear not to show at all and the other to be barely visible. Liebeler also stressed the fact

that the Warren Commission had other additional evidence showing that the picture wasn't composite, as claimed by many. One of the main objections made by Marcus was that Liebeler didn't show the Oswald picture by the side of his (Liebeler's) picture. Liebeler stated that it hadn't occurred to him at his photograph was shown merely to illustrate a point.

Effects of photo

In his discussion of the Oswald photograph, Marcus said that he thought that the photograph "proved to millions of Americans that Lee Harvey Oswald was the murderer, and that it was fixed, then it was the most damning piece of evidence against Oswald."

Liebeler replied "I suppose it has some psychological effect, but I suggest Mr. Marcus address his complaints to Life magazine."

Along the same lines, Liebeler said that he would like to have Life magazine admit publicly that it destroyed four frames of the film used by the Commission in the investigation. The destruction of the frames Liebeler said, did not affect the Commission's investigation at all they had the copies of the original frames and used these for examination.

"It's simply the fact," Liebeler said, "that we didn't notice when we put the volumes together that Life had in fact not given us the complete set, and I like to have Life now admit publicly that they in fact destroyed those frames."



SIDE BY SIDE — The picture on the left of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald appeared on the cover of Life magazine on Feb. 21, 1964. The picture on the right was presented by UCLA law prof. Wesley Liebeler at last week's debate between Liebeler and Warren Commission critic, Mark Lane. Accord-

ing to Liebeler, the shadow produced in his picture show that the controversial shadows in the Oswald photograph are possible to produce. One Commission critic, however, has stated that Liebeler's picture is a "phoney."