



DB photo by Norm Schindler

Commission credibility

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Thursday, January 26, 1967

Puffs of smoke

One of the first points in Lane's introductory remarks noted that seven witnesses had seen puffs of smoke from behind the wooden fence of the grassy knoll to the left of the book depository where accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald reportedly fired the deadly shots.

He noted that although certain members of the Commission claimed that the murder weapon did not emit such puffs, J. Edgar Hoover had written a letter to the Commission saying that when the weapon was tested, such puffs were evident.

He then proceeded to delve into the many factors affecting the accuracy of the alleged murder weapon. Lane quoted the company that manufactured the gun as saying that the ammunition's reliability was doubtful as it was very old; the last pro-

duction of such ammunition being terminated in 1944.

In addition, Lane stated that the Commission had claimed the weapon to be accurate, while several rifle authorities had called it a "poor military weapon," which in fact had a tendency to blow up.

Gun accurate?

Another contrast illustrated by Lane surrounded the fact that Oswald had been judged a rather poor shot while in the Marine Corps and that the Commission had chosen three excellent marksmen to test the possibility of accuracy with the weapon. In fact, Lane contended, even these three marksmen could not hit the target in the area where Oswald supposedly had shot the late president.

Liebeler opened his statements by noting that he thought that the Warren Report was a "convenient object against which to direct frustrations about the credibility gap" existing in government today. He admitted that the Commission had made some mistakes but that they had been "blown up out of proportion."

The gun found on the sixth floor of the book depository was avowed by Liebeler to be the same gun held by the Texas police, referring to the testimony of the constable who had found the gun.

Liebeler also quoted witnesses who claimed that "the whole building shook" when the shots were fired. Through the discovery of purchase records, the gun was proved to have belonged to Oswald and the gun, in fact, had Oswald's palm print on it, according to Liebeler.

Throughout the debate, Lane emphasized the fact that he thought much important evidence was being held back from the public.

According to Lane, the Commission never examined the photographs and X-rays held by the Kennedy family which will not be available to the public for another 75 years.

Lane also denounced the choice of witnesses by the Commission, stating that many people close to the scene were never interviewed by Commission members.

Fifty-eight of the 90 witnesses said the shots came from the grassy knoll, Lane said, and he pointed out that he thought Liebeler was "presenting the case as the Commission did, one sidedly and without all of the facts."

One of Lane's charges that a witness had not been allowed to answer a pertinent question was refuted by Liebeler when he pointed out that the witness had been asked five times before what he had seen.

Ammunition tested

Liebeler also noted that the ammunition in question had been tested and fired four times, each time successfully.

Although Liebeler did point out that the Kennedys had "personal reasons" for their attitude towards the records, Liebeler stated that he thought the material should be available to the public.

Liebeler also questioned Lane about the alleged firing from the grassy knoll. His contention was that if there were no bullets on the knoll where were they?

Before Lane proceeded with his next rebuttal he asked for a show of hands of students who did not accept the fact that Oswald was the lone assassin. The majority of hands in the audience reacted positively to this inquiry.

Missing film clips

Faulty use of film clips was one of Lane's points and he questioned the Commission's handling of several clips which were allegedly destroyed by "Life" magazine. He also noted that the man in charge of the Kennedy autopsy had destroyed the draft notes on the autopsy and that the X-rays weren't available to see if the bullets fired from the grassy knoll were in the body.

P.B. -- 1/26/67



Lane

DR photo by Norm Schindler



Liebeler

DR photo by Norm Schindler



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Liebeler pointed out that if the bullets were in the body then the three autopsy surgeons had perjured themselves by not disclosing them. He also charged that Lane "left out material, which was a perfect example of the technique this man (Lane) is using."

During the question and answer period, over 75 students rushed to the microphone to question either Lane or Liebeler. The first question addressed to Lane involved certain conflicting shadows on photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald. Lane claimed that they were indeed conflicting and that only a society with a "dual solar system" could have produced such shadows.

Liebeler, however, presented evidence to the contrary by dramatically unwrapping a picture he had on stage showing similar conflicting shadows in a picture recently taken here in Los Angeles.

Other questions involved the credibility of locations of wounds in both Kennedy and Gov. John Connally, who was wounded at the same time. One dispute centered over the fact that Kennedy's head was shown to have fallen forward the instant he was shot, as stated by Liebeler. Lane said that the two film clips illustrating this movement cover 1/18 of a second and that during the period of half a second, Kennedy's head was shown to have fallen backward.

In his closing statement, Lane said that the American people were in a state of shock over the death of a much-loved president and that they "had to be given a panacea" to satisfy them. His final remark was addressed to Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson. Lane said, "Give us the information we should have - and if you don't we will remember in 1968."

Liebeler closed by claiming that it was "people like Lane" who had been stirring up rumors and raising questions which have no basis in fact. In conclusion, he said that the Warren Commission Report "had to be judged on the evidence available and not in the context of suggestions that the person who benefited (from Kennedy's death) was responsible." **END**