

The Assassination Number 14

Reopen The Warren Commission

We have recited during the past few weeks a number of witnesses who were discredited in various ways by the Warren Commission. We have been critical of the tactics and flimsy evidence used with which such witnesses as newsman Seth Kantor, Deputy Sheriff Roger D. Craig, Attorney Carroll Jarnagin, and Dallas Police Sergeant Patrick T. Dean all were discredited.

In the case of Attorney Mark Lane of New York, the Chairman takes full responsibility for rejecting the evidence of Lane. Attorney Lane had testified previously, and he refused both then and this time to identify two sources of information. Lane's sources apparently feared for their lives, and in Dallas, fear has silenced people in all walks of life who might know something of the assassination. At least thirteen persons are dead who were in one way or another associated with these events.

Mr. Lane appeared before the Commission in Washington on March 4, 1964 and a portion of that testimony went as follows:

MR. RANKIN. Now, I understand at one time you referred to some meeting in the Carousel Club a week or so before the assassination. Do you have any material on that or any information?

MR. LANE. Yes.

RANKIN. Is there anything you would care to present to the Commission?

LANE. Yes. I have been informed--and this is the source I will have to check again in order to secure his testimony—

RANKIN. You will advise us if you are permitted to.

LANE. Yes. But I can tell you the substance—that a meeting took place on November 14, 1963, in the Carousel Club between Officer Tippit and Bernard Weissman, Mr. Weissman being the gentleman who placed a full-page advertisement in the Dallas Morning News which was printed on November 22, asking a series of questions of President Kennedy. It was addressed "Welcome to Dallas, President Kennedy. Why have you traded the Monroe Doctrine for spirit of Moscow, Why has Gus Hall and the Communist Party endorsed your 1964 election" and such matter. I think these two give a rather clear indication of the kind of advertisement that it was. And I have been informed that Mr. Weissman and Officer Tippit and a third person were present there. I have been given the name of the third person. But for matters which I will make plain to the Commission, I will be pleased to give you the name of the third person as given me, but not in the presence of the press. I would rather do that in executive session—that one piece of testimony.

THE CHAIRMAN. That is satisfactory to do that, if you wish.

LANE. Thank you, sir.

RANKIN. Is there anything else about that incident that you know and want to tell the Commission at this time?

LANE. No.

THE CHAIRMAN. That is the entire story, is it?

LANE. That they were there for more than 2 hours conferring—these three persons.

THE CHAIRMAN. Your information does not—is not to the effect as to what they were conferring on.

LANE. No; they did not hear that.

RANKIN. I am not suggesting, Mr. Lane that you have been selective about what you have told the Commission and what you have not told, but I do wish to make the inquiry as to whether there is any information you might have that the Commission should be informed of as to other people that you might have interviewed in regard to this matter.

LANE. I have given the Commission at this time everything that I know.

The Commission retired to executive session and this testimony follows:

LANE. The third name that I was informed—the person that I was informed there, the third person, is named Jack Ruby. It was my feeling, of course, while his case was pending it would not be proper to comment on that in the presence of the press.

RANKIN. You mean the third person in the group apparently conferring?

LANE. Yes, Tippit, Weissman, and Ruby.

Between the meeting in March and Lane's appearance on July 2, 1964, the Commission apparently changed its attitude towards Mr. Lane. Below the Chairman is speaking to Mr. Lane in very strong terms.

THE CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lane, may I say to you that until you give us the corroboration that you say you have, namely, that someone told you that that was a fact, we have every reason to doubt the truthfulness of what you have heretofore told us. And your refusal to answer at this time lends further strength to that belief. If you can tell us, and if you will tell us, who gave you that information, so that we may test their veracity, then you have performed a service to this Commission. But until you do, you have done nothing but handicap us.

Next we recite the way the Commission twisted the questions put to Ruby in order to avoid the Lane testimony. Special Agent Bell P. Herndon of the Federal Bureau of Investigation would recite the questions to Jack Ruby—fully advising Ruby what was going to be asked when the lie detector machine was attached.

The lie test was conducted under the most unfavorable of circumstances and not once was the question put con-

cerning Weissman as shown below.

MR. HERNDON. "Did you ever meet with Oswald and Officer Tippit at your apartment?"

MR. RUBY. No.

HERNDON. Here again the Officer Tippit is the one we're talking about that was killed.

RUBY. Right.

HERNDON. All right, Mr. Ruby, those are the questions and we will proceed on those.

MR. ALEXANDER. What was that last question?

HERNDON. "Did you ever meet with Oswald and Officer Tippit at your apartment?"

Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander was never questioned by the Commission, but he has bragged that he knows more about the case than anyone else. He undoubtedly knew that the question just put to Ruby was incorrect. He did not correct the interrogator.

At this point Herndon attaches the machine to Ruby and the questions are again asked of Ruby while the recordings are made. The questioning goes this way:

HERNDON. "Did you ever meet with Oswald and Officer Tippit at your club?"

RUBY. No.

Are we to assume the vaunted FBI further confused the question by now making it AT YOUR CLUB? Of course Ruby answered the question NO. The information given to the Commission by Lane concerned a meeting by Ruby, Tippit, and Weissman.

By now even Ruby must have realized that the Commission did not seem to want a true answer to the correct question.

Agent Herndon's evaluation of the botched question to Ruby was given on July 28, 1964 in Vol. XIV page 596 with these words:

" The chart shows there is no stress or strain. However, it is entirely possible that he is becoming desentized at this point.

Does it not seem there was an effort on the part of the Commission to discredit Lane, so they had to make the testimony fit that decision?

Lane had spent six months researching the events surrounding the assassination, and his information was difficult to obtain. During this writer's investigations, the same promise been absolutely required by witnesses on several occasions—that is, I promise never to disclose the source of my information. Fear is a real thing in Dallas.

The Chairman tells Lane directly that the Commission does not believe his testimony.

We wonder how history will deal with the Chairman.

NOTICE: This editor took pictures at Parkland Hospital in Dallas on the day President Kennedy was murdered. From these pictures, we know there were at least two women taking pictures before the President's body left the hospital. We urge these women to get in touch with the editor of The Midlothian Mirror. The pictures you took might be very important.

* Underlining added by editor.

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