

A GUARDIAN SPECIAL

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RE: Lane brief

A grave doubt plagues U.S.

THIS IS A SPECIAL eight-page, tabloid-size pamphlet published by the NATIONAL GUARDIAN newsweekly as a public service. It is based largely on a five-page brief on the Oswald case, published in the Dec. 19, 1963, issue of the GUARDIAN, written by attorney Mark Lane.

Few issues of the GUARDIAN in recent years—and the GUARDIAN has been involved in many stirring crusades in its 15 years—have created as much comment as the Dec. 19 issue with the Lane brief. An extra press run distributed to newsstands and offered to readers both old and new was quickly sold out. The demand was so heavy that this pamphlet was produced to meet it.

The doubts and confusion in the aftermath of the assassination of President Kennedy have brought to mind the situation that was created by the Sacco-Vanzetti case and the case of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg—and the continuing case of Morton Sobell. Nor will the doubts be set at rest until genuine efforts are made to get to the bottom of the events that took place the tragic weekend of Nov. 22, 1963.

New readers will be interested in the reaction to the publication of the Lane brief.

The biggest publicity breakthrough came in the New York Times Dec. 19, with a full column story under the byline of Peter Klhss, a reporter of the old-fashioned digging school, which sent many New Yorkers to the newsstands for their first copy of the GUARDIAN. By week's end several newsstands had called for additional copies, and phone calls and letters were coming in for bundle orders, single copies from new people and extra copies from regular subscribers.

The press reaction was interesting. Except for the Times, no New York newspaper printed a line on the Lane brief. The United Press International got proof sheets in advance and announced it "wouldn't touch it." The Associated Press was offered the proofs, but said it was not interested; after the Times story appeared, AP became interested.

Abroad the reaction was quite different. In Rome the Lane brief was scheduled to be printed in full in Paese Sera, the largest in the evening field, and in Liberation in Paris. Oggi, an Italian magazine with a circulation of one million, sought permission to reprint. The Japanese press and news agencies also were on top of the story. Several Mexican papers picked it up, too.

THIS EXPERIENCE with the Lane brief leads to the conclusion that there is widespread doubt and incredulity in the public mind both at home and abroad over the handling of the assassination of President Kennedy by the police and investigating agencies. Unlike most of the U.S. press, the GUARDIAN shares this feeling and will continue to gather and to present every pertinent piece of information it can. It deplores the fact that not one leading newspaper in the country is alarmed enough by the implication of the double assassination to apply its full resources to a crusading effort to get to the bottom of the case—even if it means a muck-raking job on the FBI, the CIA, the Secret Service and any agency of government—local, state or federal—that needs looking into.

Among the honorable exceptions in the field of journalism, in addition to the Times (which has been following the developments in the Oswald case in its news columns) are the New Republic, which in its issue of Dec. 21 carried a most disturbing article on the assassination called "Seeds of Doubt," by Jack Minnis and Staughton Lynd; and the St. Louis

