

MOTHER AND MARK LANE SPEAK

Overflow at Town Hall

^{NO 2/27}
A CAPACITY CROWD jammed New York's Town Hall Feb. 18 at a meeting sponsored by the NATIONAL GUARDIAN to help uncover the facts behind the slaying of President Kennedy.

Many hundreds were turned away at the box office after 1,500 persons were admitted to the hall to hear Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of slain Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of assassinating Kennedy; Mark Lane, New York attorney and counsel for Oswald; Professor David Haber of Rutgers University, who was chairman of the meeting; Professor Staughton Lynd and Jack Minnis, authors of an article disputing the official version of the assassination, and James Aronson, GUARDIAN editor.

The meeting was conducted without incident—at gross variance with fears expressed by New York University, owner of Town Hall, that such a gathering "could be incendiary." The university demanded a \$25,000 bond from the GUARDIAN to protect the hall in event of damage, but there were strong indications that NYU's action was motivated by a desire to obstruct independent inquiry into the assassination rather than fear of vandalism.

FIGHT PLEDGED: Mrs. Oswald was cheered when she told the audience: "I am going to continue to fight for my son. He is innocent until proved guilty. That's the American way of life. . . This young man—whether he's my son or a stranger—repeatedly declared, 'I didn't do it.' And he's shot down. That's not the American way of life. . . I cannot help my son. He is gone and I accept that fact. But

Counsel for Oswald

THE JOHNSON-WARREN commission investigating President Kennedy's death was apparently bowing to mounting public criticism when on Feb. 25 it named American Bar Association president Walter Craig as counsel for Lee Oswald. It remains to be seen whether Craig actually intends to defend Oswald or act as an extension of the commission.

Lawyer Mark Lane told the GUARDIAN that the appointment would not alter his own endeavors on Oswald's behalf. Lane noted that he had written to the commission in December urging that counsel be appointed for Oswald. "Since then," Lane said, "the commission had taken the position that no counsel was necessary because Oswald was not on trial. Now that the commission feels Oswald needs counsel during the second half of the inquiry, I suggest that he also needed it during the first half and now urge the commission to start proceedings from the beginning."

the way in which he is gone, I will never accept."

Lane, a former New York State Assemblyman, played a tape recording of a conversation with a Dallas schoolteacher who was witness to the assassination. The teacher, possibly the closest bystander to the President when he was slain, said she heard between four and six shots, rather than the three shots agreed upon by the FBI and local police.

At a blackboard on stage, Lane demonstrated through a series of diagrams how Dallas and federal officials contradicted their own versions of the assassination.

Lane said: "I have been asked if I have faith in the ability of the Warren commission to secure all of the facts and release them to the American people. While I have the greatest respect for the Chief Justice. . . I have no faith that we will ever be given the facts by the commission. While called the Warren commission, its majority is comprised of a for-

Help needed in inquiry

THE NEW YORK Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, one of almost a dozen groups organized across the country by Mark Lane, defense counsel for Lee Oswald, has issued a call for voluntary help, funds and responsible information to further its efforts to reveal the facts about the slaying of President Kennedy. The New York group, clearing house for all the committees, is located at 164 W. 79th St., Apt. 11 B, SU 7-6797.

mer CIA director, a former FBI agent, and two racist Dixiecrats. Since the commission has indicated that it will conduct no investigation of its own but will rely solely upon the results of the investigations conducted by governmental agencies—meaning the FBI, Secret Service and Dallas police — one questions whether the commission will ever even secure all of the facts, let alone release them to the American people."

SOMETHING WRONG: Lynd, a historian and writer, also spoke for his associate, Minnis, when he said, "I believe that what most needs to be said about what happened in Dallas is that there has been something wrong with the 'feel' of this affair from the very beginning." He suggested an analogy between the Oswald and Dreyfus cases. (See excerpts, page 5.)

Aronson detailed difficulties imposed upon the GUARDIAN by officials of NYU and called the episode "a disgrace to the concept of free speech and free inquiry."