

## LANE ASKS INVESTIGATION

# Belli charges a cop spurred Ruby to 'lynching' of Oswald

**T**HE FORMER ATTORNEY for Jack Ruby, convicted killer of the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy, asserted July 27 that a policeman tried to persuade Ruby that Lee Harvey Oswald should be "lynched."

According to reporter Warren Boroson, who interviewed lawyer Melvin Belli for the July-August issue of Fact magazine, "the night before the shooting [of Oswald] a Dallas policeman and his girl friend spoke to Ruby, trying to get him to approve the idea of having Oswald lynched." Belli was then quoted as saying:

"They picked on Ruby because they knew what a weak-minded guy he was. The cop and his girl just disappeared, and I could never locate them, so I didn't mention it at the trial." Additionally, of course, such information would have strengthened the prosecution's argument that the former nightclub operator had premeditated the killing. The defense maintained that it was the result of a sudden, insane impulse.

ATTORNEY Mark Lane, who had been chosen by Oswald's mother to represent his interests before the Presidential commission of inquiry headed by Chief Justice Warren, asserted that the article "raises serious questions as to the complicity of the Dallas Police Department in the murder of Lee Oswald," whom Lane maintains is innocent.

The civil liberties lawyer urged Warren to call Belli for a public hearing, charging that, "if the Dallas police force wanted Oswald silenced, serious questions must be asked as to the possible police participation in the assassination of President Kennedy."

Lane, who had previously asked "why the Dallas police suddenly removed police officers from the entrance to the building where Oswald was killed during his transfer from one prison to another," said "the latest revelations add credence to the fact that the police may have been involved in the killing of Oswald."

**IN THE ARTICLE**, Belli revealed that H. L. Hunt, right-wing Texas oil millionaire, offered him \$100,000 not to defend Ruby. Since the trial, he said, Dallas millionaires have launched a "get Belli" movement, the results of which he described as follows:

"After I got back to San Francisco, I found that my insurance policies had been canceled, a book publisher had reneged on a contract to bring out my book 'Black Date: Dallas,' my mortgages were called, my name withdrawn from official lists

of lawyers, my credit frozen, TV shows and lectures canceled. I'm not paranoid, but it's those wealthy Texans who were behind it. You can't imagine the strength and power of that wicked city of Dallas."

Speaking of Oswald, Belli said he believed the ex-Marine was guilty of the Kennedy slaying because he was insane.

The commission report, originally scheduled for publication June 1, then July 1, has been postponed until mid-September.

**SEVERAL REASONS** have been given to the press for the delay, currently that the commission is awaiting the end of the Democratic convention and that the commission wishes to give President Johnson time to read and digest the report before its publication.

It seems likely that the actual reason is that every time the investigation group is convinced that it has all the information necessary to proclaim that Oswald was the "lone and unaided assassin"—as an FBI report declared days after the slaying—new information is uncovered tending to dispute this hypothesis.

It is known that a well-known figure in the case has recently divulged to the commission information that an informant has described to the GUARDIAN as "sensational"—but the nature of the material has not been publicly disclosed.

The commission itself continues to maintain (this time the leak was to UPI on July 28) that "the report will contain no basic surprises." The unidentified source told the news agency that "one finding will be that Oswald shot Ken-

nedy in part at least because of a demented desire to draw attention to himself by killing someone of importance."