

# Looking At Books

RUSH TO JUDGMENT, by Mark Lane (Holt, Rinehart, Winston); INQUEST, by Edward J. Epstein (Viking Press); UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, by Sylvan Fox (Award Books), reviewed by John M. Cassidy of The Journal Herald staff.

Nov. 22, 1963 — Dallas, Tex. The day began peacefully, but halfway through events happened that shocked America and the world.

Barring the Lincoln assassination, this was the greatest story in almost two centuries.

All three of the above-cited volumes attack the final assassination report given by the Warren Commission.

Mark Lane is an attorney retained by Mrs. Oswald, mother of the accused killer; Epstein a scholar currently in a doctoral program in U.S. government at Harvard; Fox a former Pulitzer Prize winner.

President Kennedy's death affected the entire nation. Whether people liked or disliked him, his death shocked all.

It also made people realize:

"At moments of profound tragedy the tides swirl dangerously. It is easy to lose one's footing in the fog of rumor and report. At such a time, the very arch stones of a nation, no matter how powerful, seem to shift.

"All that has seemed secure (suddenly, if only for an instant) becomes uncertain, unstable and treacherous.

"If the President — in the full panoply of power — can in a few seconds be turned to dust, what mere man feels safe?

"When we add to such a situation a high drama even a whiff of suspicion, a hint of the unknown, a

touch of rumor, the tensions may rise to an excruciating level. Sensations begin to feed upon sensation, rumor upon rumor and left unchecked chaos could result."

Journal - Herald  
Dayton O  
AUG 20 1966

WOULD AMERICA PANIC and lose faith in her government if the public discovered not a lone assassin but an international conspiracy was behind the murder?

Would the public lose faith in the FBI and CIA if they discovered their security preparation for the President had been lax?

Was Oswald actually innocent?

Did someone order the Warren Commission to arrive at the conclusion that Oswald and Oswald alone was involved in the killing?

These questions are examined in the three volumes. Remarks of President Johnson and Chief Justice Earl Warren are also cited:

"I thought there was a conspiracy to get us all," Mr. Johnson at Dallas' Parkland hospital.

"There are some things about the Kennedy assassination that we will never know in our lifetime," Warren.

The justice's remark followed a reporter's query about "off the record" testimony which did not find its way into the published Warren Commission report and which has been consigned to the National Archives where testimony cannot be revealed for 75 years.

As expected, especially by Mark Lane, the Warren report and the commission's method of conducting the hearings are assailed. Also attacked are the "inefficiencies" of the FBI, the CIA and the Dallas police.

Of the three volumes, Lane's seems the most factual, carefully documented and thorough.

Fox tends to border on sensationalism, the Epstein's book resembles the term paper from which it began. Epstein's volume was labeled non-factual in a magazine article. However, Lane tends to show the magazine author, not Epstein, was in error.

All three of the volumes are interesting, whether the accusations are believed or not.

THIS REVIEWER DOES not condone Oswald or think him innocent, but one fact in the Warren Commission report cannot be overlooked:

Only three shots were fired in Dallas, one hitting Kennedy in the neck and also injuring Governor Connally, the second missing the car's occupants and later found in the car, and the third striking the President in the head.

This reviewer cannot believe one shot, as claimed in the Warren report "got two birds with one stone." And Oswald, as the report showed, in tests with Army sharpshooters could not have gotten off the fourth or more shots in the time the motorcade was fired upon from the Texas Book depository.

Add to this Governor Connally's insistence that the shot which hit the President in the neck was not the same as that which struck the governor. In addition there are security service reports of four to six shots being heard. Consequently, the question arises:

Did all the shots come from the depository?

If, actually, more than three shots were fired, the conclusion must be reached:

There was a conspiracy Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas.

POST  
Houston, Texas

AUG 28 1966

## WARREN REPORT IS SCORED BY LAWYER

RUSH TO JUDGMENT. By Mark Lane, Holl, Rinehart and Winston. \$5.95.

By CLARENCE DOUCET  
Mark Lane, the attorney asked to be Lee Oswald's lawyer before the Warren Commission, makes a very serious charge against that very group:

"The Commission reviewed the testimony of 552 witnesses. Some of the testimony was inconsistent with other testimony, in sum or in part, and it was necessary for the Commission to evolve a standard for assessing it. I believe that it did so: testimony compatible with the theory of Oswald as the lone assassin was accepted, even when incredible, while incompatible testimony, no matter how credible, was rejected."

His highly critical review of the Commission probe leaves the reader uneasy, because his book is filled with incidents to bear out his contention.

To begin, in a review, there is no way possible to recount the scores of incidents he touches upon. Every phase of the Commission investigation, it seems, leaves room for doubt of some of the Commission's findings.

Starting with the murder of President Kennedy, itself, the Commission heard all sorts of testimony that would indicate

that there was something going on in front and to the right of the motorcade, in a grassy knoll near the railroad tracks behind a fence. This is where most persons — those watching the motorcade as well as those in the motorcade — thought the shots came from.

Doctors at Parland Memorial Hospital believed Kennedy had been hit from the front; railroad employes ran to the knoll — one person said he smelled gunsmoke — and Secret Service agents, FBI-men and Dallas police rushed to that area.

Starting at this point, Lane begins his methodical attack on the Commission's evidence, emphasizing testimony of witnesses whose statements are in dire conflict with the Commission findings.

The underlying question raised by Lane is: Did the Commission set out to prove that Oswald was the lone assassin, magnifying evidence against him while evidence in his favor was "depreciated, misrepresented, or ignored"?

This is not the first book that is highly critical of the Warren Commission. Apparently anyone willing to take the time to read the 26 volumes of evidence — from which the Warren Report was gleaned — does not find



the perfect order that the report suggests.

One paragraph is especially chilling in that it tells what happened to some of the witnesses and principals in the case. Two reporters who visited Ruby's apartment the night he shot Oswald are now dead. One was found in his own apartment, the victim of a karate attack; the other was shot and killed in California. One witness was shot through the head; and one witness to the Tippit murder says she was threatened by the Dallas police if she told the Commission what she saw.

And there is much, much more.

Because the Warren Report neglected to cite conflicting testimony, it has left itself wide open to criticism, Lane thinks. But what seems more serious, the conflicting testimony in many cases hints that Oswald, assuming he was an assassin, was not necessarily acting alone, according to Lane.

But, as Lane says, the off-the-record statements as well as many other items of extreme importance, are now safely locked away for 75 years in the National Archives.

A book such as this, which seems destined to be a best seller, will undoubtedly raise a cry from the American public, which has always wanted all the details. Perhaps if the cry is loud enough and long enough, that Black Weekend in Dallas will be revisited.

Lane's book would seem to warrant this.