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# Was Justice In a

**RUSH TO JUDGMENT**, by Mark Lane.  
Holt, Rinehart, Winston, \$5.95.

Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgment* is such a disturbing book that it sent me digging deeper into what has been written about the murders of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippit and Lee Harvey Oswald. Lane calls his book a critique of the Warren Commission's inquiries into these three murders but its 478 pages go much further than that. In fact, his arguments are so reasonable and so convincing that they have shaken my faith in federal justice.

After all is said, Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was chairman of the Commission, and its report should have been one of the fairest and most impartial in American legal history. Yet Lane, the attorney for Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, rips the Commission's report and its 26 volumes of supporting evidence into so many legal shreds. Throughout his book, Lane makes such statements as—

—“Oswald was the accused; the evidence against him was magnified, while that in his favor was depreciated, misrepresented or ignored.”

—“Hearsay evidence was freely admitted, while crucial eyewitness testimony was freely excluded. Opinions were sought and solemnly published, while important facts were distorted or ignored.”

—“The Commission . . . failed to conduct a thorough investigation; it failed to ask relevant questions if their likely answers promised discomfort.”

In support of these statements, Lane, the lawyer, argues—

—That testimony of eyewitnesses to the assassination of President Kennedy and the FBI's report of it devastate the Commission's conclusions that all of the shots were fired by a lone assassin from the rear of the Kennedy automobile;

—That testimony of those at the scene and pictures snapped at the time of the shooting raise grave doubts that Oswald actually was on the sixth floor of the building from which, the Commission declared, the bullets were fired;

—That the so-called murder weapon, an old Italian rifle with a faulty sight, which Dallas police said was Oswald's and the murder weapon, could not possibly have been fired four times, or even three, during the six seconds the President was exposed to the window of the sixth floor of the School Book Depository Building;

—That the Commission ignored positive eyewitness testimony that two men were involved in the slaying of Officer Tippit and that neither resembled Oswald;

—That the Commission ignored a substantial body of evidence, some of it well corroborated, that Lee Harvey Oswald perhaps was involved with others in planning the assassination; and ignored, too, evidence that suggested that others deliberately set up Oswald as the prospective assassin prior to Nov. 22, 1963, the date of the assassination.

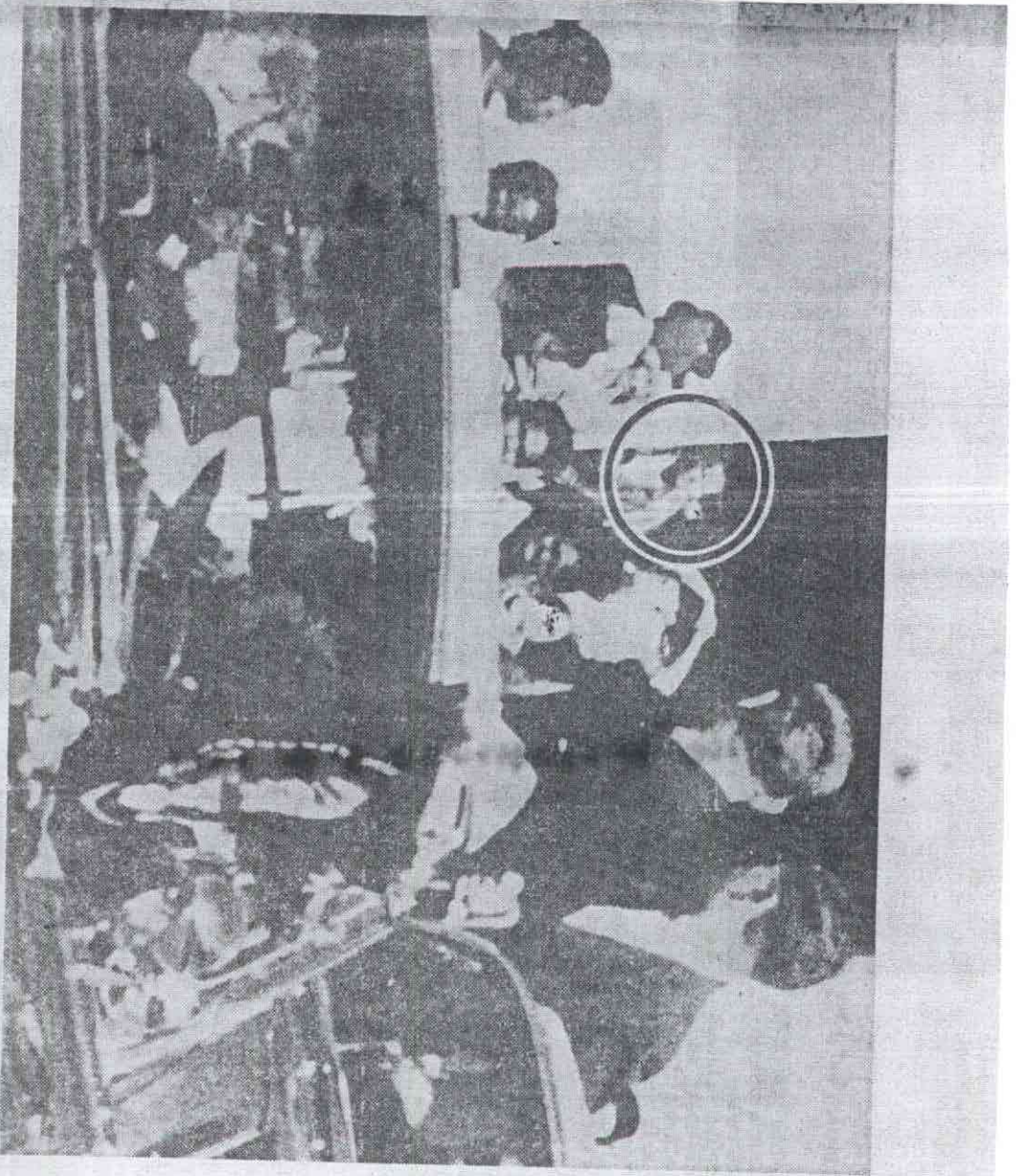
These and a hundred other questions raised in Lane's book more than support his argument that no jury would have convicted Oswald, had he escaped Jack Ruby's bullet, on the basis of the Warren Commission's evidence. Lane, of course, was a defense lawyer in the Warren investigation and any defense lawyer usually is disgruntled when the

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verdict goes the other way. On the other hand, the New York Review of Books for July 28, 1966, carries eleven and one-half pages of a review by Richard H. Popkin of "Inquest" by Edward Jay Epstein and "Whitewash" by Harold Weisberg, and every word supports Lane's arguments. Furthermore, Popkin points out in his review that recent articles by Vincent Salandria in *The Minority of One*, Fred Cook in *The Nation* and Fletcher Knebel in *Look Magazine* also support more or less the Epstein and Weisberg critiques of the Warren Commission's report.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford, a member of the Warren Commission, has written the only book, "Portrait of the Assassin," upholding the Commission's report, and even he admits that there is skepticism. He wrote in his book: "Let those who scoff at the report bury themselves for 10 months in the monumental record. After that, if they persist in their skepticism, that's their privilege. May they add to the truth so long as it is the truth and not mere speculation."

Lane did just that, bury himself for more than 10 months in the 36 volumes of the Warren Commission's evidence, and he makes the frank statement: "I have no theories as to who killed the President or as to why it was done." Yet Lane's critique and the doubts that he raises are so convincing, particularly so when supported by the researches of other writers, that the American people certainly deserve a new look at the assassination. President Kennedy was elected by the people to lead the people and the people are entitled to know whether he was removed by an assassin's bullet from a crackpot or from a conspiracy. At the present moment, based on the new books on the assassination, all is confusion.—VIRGIL MILLER NEWTON JR.



—Photo Owned by Wide World Photos



—United Press International

The photograph at left raised a stir shortly after President Kennedy was assassinated because it appears that Lee Harvey Oswald is standing in the doorway of the Texas Book Depository. The photo was taken just as the shots were fired. Was it Oswald? The Warren Commission says no, that it was Billy Nolan Lovelady and that he identified himself. Lovelady has stated that he was wearing a red and white striped sport shirt buttoned near the neck when he witnessed the assassination and that he wore no jacket. The photo of Oswald (above) was taken at the time of his arrest.