

## Why I am writing for the Free Press

MARK LANE

I am writing for the Los Angeles Free Press because no one else has asked me. I have asked other publications but they have declined to publish my comments from New Orleans. Not long before travelling to New Orleans I offered to write a series of articles for the San Francisco Chronicle but the editorial staff there refused to consider them even though I offered them gratis. I have written articles regarding the assassination investigation for the leading journals and newspapers in England (The Times Literary Supplement), France (Paris Match), Denmark (Ekstra-bladet) and most of the rest of Europe. Only in the United States is it very difficult to communicate.

Of course, one cannot take such rejections personally. It is, I fear, far worse than that. When I completed writing "Rush to Judgment," it was rejected by almost every leading publisher in the United States. "It will never sell" was the excuse often offered. Yet within weeks of publication it became the number one best seller in the country and when published in paperback became the number one best seller in that form as well. Most publishers would not

print it, yet well over a million people secured it.

When commercial firms, Simon and Schuster or the Chronicle, reject works for reasons other than their intrinsic worth or commercial value we discover that the American business community has moved away from capitalism. Which might not be reprehensible except that the move is toward totalitarianism. Toward a controlled press, a powerful centralized government, an obedient communications industry—in short, toward, and almost at—fascism.

Do I put down the Free Press when I say that I write for it because no one else asked me? No. I honor it. And I am honored to write for it.

In the weeks ahead I will try to keep you informed of the events of New Orleans. I moved to this lovely city when I found out that the only way to know what is taking place in the Garrison investigation is to reside here, attend the courtroom sessions, and spend hours each day with Jim Garrison and his staff. No further comment need be made about the press than that by residing elsewhere you have been cheated of any knowledge of the facts of the most important investigation in the history of our country.