

MARK LANE:

'KILLER ON TV'

**TV station 'sanitizes' murderer;
Lane asks FCC to revoke license**

MARK LANE

John Cole, a self-admitted murderer, made his television debut on the Virginia Graham Show last week. However, KTLA "sanitized," to borrow an Army Intelligence term, the broadcast by making false statements to the audience, and Mr. Cole emerged instead as a patriotic agent of some intelligence apparatus.

KTLA continued its deception by deleting all of the relevant comments made about Mr. Cole. For these reasons I have asked the Federal Communications Commission to conduct an investigation leading to the revocation of the public license currently held and abused by KTLA. The moral of the story is that a former "B" movie actor (read Gene Autry) can do almost as much damage when he swaps his celluloid horse for control of the media, as he can by picking up the reins of government (read Ronald Murphy).

It all began about a month ago when the Virginia Graham television program began calling Allan, Ingersoll and Weber, Jane Fonda's public relations firm, in order to arrange for Miss Fonda's appearance on that widely syndicated program. Jane's reply was succinct.

She was too busy speaking at Black Panther meetings, anti-war GI meetings and raising funds for the GI office about to be opened in Washington to "engage in inane chatter about Academy Awards, the members of my family or my film career."

The Graham show persisted. "You can discuss any subject you want and we will not edit it."

Jane replied that if she said anything that was meaningful, the station executives would probably delete it "for fear that Spiro Agnew might indict them for attempted freedom of speech."

The Graham show made a final suggestion. "Why don't you and Mark Lane come on the program, take the full hour and speak about the GI anti-war movement. You can each say whatever you want. What you say will be broadcast as it is said. You will not be interrupted during the hour by anyone."

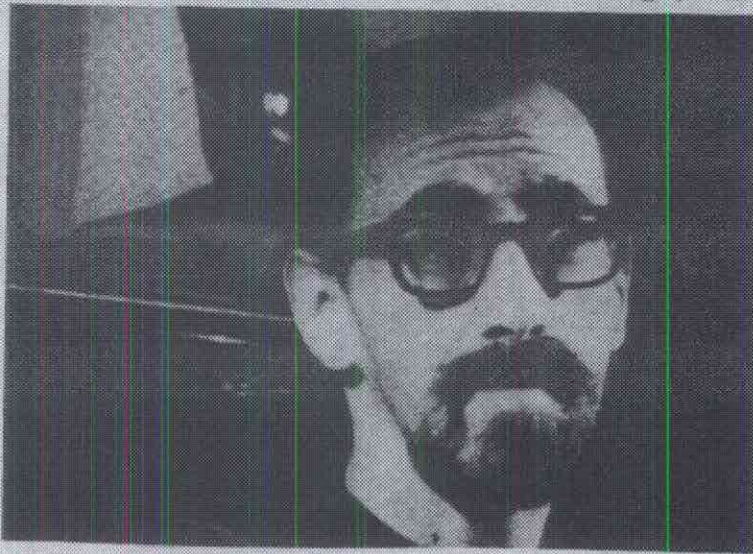
Jane called and asked my opinion. I said, "How can we turn that offer down." She replied, "How can we trust them?" I prevailed; Jane acquiesced; and we both proceeded to KTLA to tape the program.

Jane was introduced first, asked a question or two by Miss Graham, while I waited in a guest room. Steve Jaffe of the Allan firm tapped me on the shoulder and informed me that a production assistant had just told him that the audience had been specially invited. Tickets had been sent to the John Birch Society, to various ROTCs, to an Army Major, and to a lady from the Women's Strike for Peace. Was this a fair cross section of

middle-America, I pondered? Possibly, but hopefully not. Just then a familiar face appeared on the television set in the waiting room. John Cole was the first guest arranged as an inquisitor. He asked Jane what she knew about the Movement for a Democratic Military. She replied that, just as its

all that could be confirmed in writing, of his oral recitation.

In short, Mr. Cole had told me that he had attended IPW (Interrogation, Prisoner of War) School at Fort Meade, Maryland, and that he had received other "intelligence" training at Fort Holabird, Maryland. He was taught, he said,



JOHN COLE WITH SPIRO AGNEW LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER

name implies, the organization was concerned about bringing some semblance of democracy to the military and an end to racism in the service. The organization, made up of enlisted men in the Marine Corps and Navy, based primarily in California, also strongly opposes the war in South East Asia. Mr. Cole then stated that he was an agent for some unnamed intelligence group and added that he had spied upon MDM. He then proceeded to make several derogatory and inaccurate allegations about the organization, stating in conclusion that its members carry weapons and are organized to use them "just like the Black Panthers." Jane replied, "Oh, you mean only for self-defense?"

After the inevitable commercial I was introduced. I told Miss Graham that her guest, Mr. Cole, made some interesting comments but that he might have shared some even more illuminating stories with the audience had he just searched his memory.

I had just completed a manuscript comprised of interviews with many servicemen who had fought in Vietnam. The book, to be called *Conversations With Americans*, presents the eyewitness account of dozens of men who had participated in, or witnessed unspeakable atrocities. Among those who I interviewed was Mr. Cole.

Not long before his appearance on the program, Mr. Cole had been kind enough to grant me a lengthy tape recorded interview and subsequently a tape recorded and filmed interview as well. At my request, and with marked reluctance, he showed me various military documents which confirmed,

the use of torture:

Cole: Anything that would cause physical harm or give the impression that you might cause physical harm. They use what is known as exemplary cases. An example of this would be if you had four persons that you were going to interrogate within a group, you would select one whom probably you could realize or justify that he did not have the information you were looking for. In the presence of others you would interrogate this man and be rather ruthless in your treatment. The more he would refuse to answer your questions, or was unable to answer your questions, the more strenuous and more painful and the more varied the method of torture would become.

The pressure would gradually increase and now the others would be looking on, and eventually they would see the man beaten. Could be any one of a number of things that you wanted to do. Virtually anything you want to do to a person is permissible up to and including killing the man. This is so the others would talk. They see him going through pain and they don't want to go through it, so if they have the information, they have seen someone who didn't have it and they saw what happened to him. They know that it is better to talk than not to talk.

Lane: What methods were taught in terms of physical punishment?

Cole: It starts out with simply a man putting a knife, one method is this putting a knife at a person's throat. And with the man tied hand and foot, generally tied to an object, forcing this man under threat

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