

R-102



WAGGONER CARR
Attorney General

Lee:

I have received this clipping in the mail. I thought you should see it, if you have not already.

I would appreciate your appraisal of this.

WC

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Toxin Back- Despite Odds

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Oswald Lawyer On U. S. Tour

Busiest man on the Communist lecture circuit these days is Mark Lane, the ultra-left-wing lawyer who will defend accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald before the Warren Commission investigating the slaying.

Lane will be a speaker in major cities this month where he will present the Communist version of the Kennedy murder. One of the meetings, scheduled for Los Angeles Feb. 11, will be chaired by identified Communist lawyer John T. McTernan. Lane will speak under auspices of the Communist National Guardian, the New York-based weekly which on Dec. 19 carried his lengthy "brief" on Oswald's behalf to the Warren Commission.

The brief is being widely distributed from coast to coast and was broadcast over the left-wing Pacifica radio stations last month. Lane attempts to shift guilt for the assassination to right-wing elements and law enforcement officials.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

Other stops on the Lane speaking itinerary are Chicago, Feb. 13; Detroit, Feb. 14; and New York, Feb. 18. Lane was already booked for a Jan. 24 New York city appearance sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, a unit of the subversive Socialist Workers Party. The SWP is a Trotskyite-Communist organization.

After Lane's report defending Oswald appeared in the Guardian, he made a trip to Dallas, where Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of the accused assassin, suddenly announced she had hired him for a post-humous defense.

Even though Lane is presumably fully occupied with the Oswald agitation, he has nevertheless been announced as a speaker for a totally unrelated Communist-backed cause. He is to appear at a meeting sponsored by the pro-Castro Emergency Committee for Disaster Relief to Cuba in New York City Feb. 26. The Committee which has succeeded the recently dissolved Fair Play for Cuba Committee in promoting help for the Communist country, is headed by identified Communists Sidney J. Gluck and Dr. Louis I. Miller.

CO-SPEAKERS

Other speakers at the meeting will be Thomas E. Coltan, chairman of the left-wing American Friends Service Committee for the Delaware area, and Phillip A. Luce, spokesman for the student group which illegally visited Cuba last summer. Ruth Gage-Colby, a leader in the Com-

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ON WARREN COMMISSION STAFF

Red-Fronter in Death Probe

A prominent member of a Communist front is a member of the staff of the Warren Commission investigating the slaying of President Kennedy.

He is Norman Redlich, a professor at New York University Law School, who is acting as assistant counsel to the commission.

Redlich is listed on a July 1963 letterhead of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee as a member of the group's executive committee. The Emergency

"The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is an organization with headquarters in New York, whose avowed purpose is to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and discredit the FBI," the 1959 annual report of the HCUA stated.

"The committee finds that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, established in 1951, although representing itself as a non-Communist group, actually operates as a front for the Communist Party. It has repeatedly assisted, by means of funds and legal aid, Communists involved in Smith Act violations and similar legal proceedings. One of its chief activities has been and still is the dissemination of voluminous Communist propaganda material."

Civil Liberties Committee has been named a Communist front by both the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

One of the ECLC's executives has been identified Communist Frank Wilkinson, a present leader of the Communist-run National Committee to Abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

COMMUNISTS' CLEMENCY

When Wilkinson and his co-defendant, Communist Carl Braden, were in prison for contempt of Congress in 1961, Redlich was among persons who signed an appeal to the President for clemency. This is revealed in the Dec. 4, 1961, issue of the Communist National Guardian, the New York-based weekly which has led the campaign to disculpate Lee Harvey Oswald in the President's assassination (see accompanying story).

The 1963 letter from the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee makes an appeal for support for two groups accused of supporting Communist causes. One was Advance, cited as a subversive organ-

ization and required so to register under the McCarran Internal Security Act. The other involved three University of Indiana students accused of violating state sedition laws while members of the Trotskyite-Communist Young Socialist Alliance.

Redlich had earlier publicly condemned a decision by the Supreme Court to enforce registration by Communists under the McCarran Act, according to the Communist Worker of June 24, 1962.

The Worker also names Redlich as among "notables (who) denounce attack on the peace movement" during the 1962 hearings by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on the avowedly Communist-backed Women for Peace organization (Worker, Dec. 18, 1962).

A member of the advisory committee-information of the New York Council to Abolish the HCUA, Redlich signed a petition in the New York Times Feb. 22, 1962, condemning the anti-subversive committee.

He was a scheduled speaker Feb. 24, 1961, at an anti-HCUA meeting in New York City, along with Frank J. Donner, an identified Communist lawyer. Sponsor of the meeting was the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

The Communists In the Co-ops

Identified Communists elected as congressmen of the Northern California chain of Consumers Cooperatives last summer included Charles G. Drasnin, Russian-born former veterans director of the South Berkeley branch of the Communist Party.

Drasnin, 59, of 746 61st St., Oakland, was elected to serve at the Telegraph Avenue Co-op center in Berkeley.

A registered Communist voter in Alameda County in the 1940's, Drasnin later listed his affiliation with the Communist-run Independent Progressive Party until 1955.

He was convicted of illegally distributing Communist literature during a 1941 East Bay strike.

Drasnin is wed to the former Wenonah Nedelsky who has recently served as

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