

# CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WARREN COMMISSION LAWYER CALLS STAR WITNESS "SCREWBALL"

Los Angeles, Dec. 5th - In a debate Friday night, Joseph A. Ball, counsel for the Warren Commission, described the Commission's sole identifying witness to the shooting of police officer J. D. Tippit as "an utter screwball."

After an audience of 2000 heard Mark Lane read portions of Helen Louise Markham's testimony at Beverly Hills High School Auditorium, Ball conceded that he personally questioned Mrs. Markham, the only witness who stated that she saw Oswald shoot Tippit, and that he considered her to be "an utter screwball."

Lane pointed out, however, that based upon Ball's interrogation of Mrs. Markham, the Commission concluded that her testimony was "reliable" (p. 168 of the Report). Oswald was arrested in connection with the murder of Tippit, and was subsequently charged with the murder of President Kennedy as well.

Lane, Chairman of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, an organization conducting an independent investigation into the events surrounding the assassination, heralded Ball's remark as the first crack in the myth perpetuated by the Warren Commission. "The passage of time," he stated, "will show that the Commission's findings will rank in history along with that of the French Government's original conclusion that Dreyfus was a traitor."