

BOB CONSIDINE

A Warren Commission Member

“ONE OF THE GREAT misunderstandings of certain members of the public is to confuse the investigation conducted by the (Warren) commission with an adversary trial in open court,” U.S. District Judge Walter Early Craig recently wrote to a friend.

Judge Craig was president of the American Bar Association when Chief Justice Warren requested his participation in the study of the Kennedy assassination. He and several of his associates were written off by anti-commission critics as sacred cow supernumeraries appointed by the chief justice to protect his flank as well as see to it that the constitutional interests of Oswald were not abused.

“The investigation was not such an adversary proceeding. No person or group of persons was on ‘trial.’ The function of the commission was to investigate the circumstances of the assassination and to present the facts

as accurately as they could be developed, and to present them in a form of report with the conclusions of the commission in relation thereto.

“Lee Harvey Oswald was not on trial. I, as president of the ABA, was not Lee Harvey Oswald’s counsel.

“... My role and that of my colleagues was to act as independent representatives of the legal profession to observe and assist and work with the commission as distinguished from acting as counsel for any individual or group.

“It has not been my practice to respond publicly to such critics of the work of the commission as Mark Lane and others who, by their remarks, indicate that they are devoid of knowledge or information sufficient to qualify them to knowledgeably criticize the work. No one of them, to my knowledge, nor Mr. Garrison of Louisiana, has examined in detail the ma-

terial upon which the report of the commission is based, which currently is in the department of archives in Washington.

“It was my conclusion, and that of my colleagues, that the investigation by the commission was conducted fairly and justly; that the investigation was in all probability the most exhaustive and detailed investigation in our history, or in that of any other country, in such a circumstance. It is my opinion, and that of my colleagues, that the conclusions of the commission were fully supported by the facts developed in the course of the investigation.”

★ ★ ★

JIMMY DEAN, the television fellow, may well be remembered in the annuals of that business as the man who got Johnny Carson a million dollar raise.

Dean was acting as interregnum host of the Tonight show.

Speaks Out

The other night Jimmy came on strong, like gargonzola. Descending the staircase of the audience section of the studio he paused at the chair of one of the dazed old ladies who live on TV shows. He ordered her to accompany him to the stage. She didn’t want to accompany him to the stage.

Shock showing through the boyish smile which he had acquired in make-up, Jimmy tried again, then again, then moved on and said to his audience of 189 million insomniacs and burglars, “That cost you three hunnert and twenty dollars.”

The old gal looked as if three dollars and 20 cents might come in handy just about that time in her life. But she had class enough to refrain from joining in the clumsy act, if not class enough to stay away from it in the first place. I am endeavoring to find out her name and address, to send her enough money to leave the U.S.