

Debate between Mark Lane and Melvin Belli

Belli

Mark I don't want you to be disturbed because Jack and I have got a few signals when I say that I am going first and he accedes...He's going to be thoroughly and completely impartial. And let me first welcome you to our great and tolerant city before I start tearing you to pieces on the subject matter of the debate.....The last time I had the privilege...of being in this auditorium I heard a great American speak. That was Earl Warren. I mention that because I think his name will crop up this evening. And may I before I say anything further say this: the Warren Report--I don't believe there is another country in the world today in which we could have had a Warren Report ...in which we could seek into the innermost recesses and closets of every part of our Government, the FBI the CIA, and show the world that sovereignty does indeed reside in we the People of the United States and there is utmost freedom of the press (LAUGHTER).

Mark I tell you that I believe you have done a complete disservice to us and I say this ^{openly} by saying abroad that there was a conspiracy

because I think it has done more to damage our image...than any other thing that has happened in this generation...As the German writer said, then you ask ...who are the conspirators? who took part in it? And the answer he gives is the FBI the CIA Lyndon Johnson and Mr Hunt...So my friends if you go away from here this evening thinking that Oswald was not the lone assassin then you must say who were the conspirators. And if you say they were these two organizations and these two individuals then God pity us.

Now to start I am an implacable foe of capital punishment and I feel in this case that there was a lone assassin and I feel that beyond a reasonable doubt it was L H Oswald...guilty and solely guilty without any conspirators...and still say that a fitting punishment certainly would not have been as in Texas the electric chair but that this man and I think the place to start was a psychotic individual...Some time ago when I was on the Les Crane show with Mrs Oswald... she completely and utterly denied that at any time there were any suggestions that he was psychotic....The Warren Report takes us back to Youth House, that he was getting psychiatric treatment, that he had schizoid tendencies... when he got into the Marine Corps we had a man who was a psychotic individual... He was examined in the Marine Corps and he was examined when he got out of the M C but he did have at the very ~~beginning~~ beginning the schizoid tendencies which are written into the W R. Now that's a start and I don't plan to go into that which you all know, when he was in Russia, when he came back to this country, when he went to Mexico and when he came back...I'M not a prosecutor so it is a little out of form for me...but let's start with these things which I shall prove to you...and give you as authority the W R and ~~Kidd~~ Now I know that Lord Bertrand Russel would not be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt. He would be satisfied with speculation. Let us take for example the burning of the capitol in 1812. There's no doubt in mind ~~man~~ who did it. Maybe Lord Russell has a doubt as to what countryman did it. But I think it is proved beyond a reasonable doubt that it was the British who did it....Let us start in. We find here that this man and I find it difficult to say this man...this psychotic individual was working in the Book Depository. The night before he went to work he went over to a place where his wife...was living ostensibly to get some curtain rods. Minutely does the W R show no need for curtain rods there were Venetian blinds.....(paraphrases Oswald/Wesley conversations)...He was last seen at about 11.45 in the morning... He didn't confess...but he did make seven misstatements...it's more important

on impeachment it is more important to have someone in custody saying things which can be proved not to be true...than to make an out and out confession...He wasn't having his lunch because he was up in the window where he was seen...Howard Brennan...saw him in the window. Some people say that there were two people in the window...the US Navy Photographers--and if you say aht the US N Phs is biased that the CIA is biased that the FBI is biased that Warren is biased that we are all biased then there is no help for any of us...No 1, we find rumer that there were two people...up in that window. This W R goes into that meticulously a Navy photographer got the film that they had of the two people in the window and ~~he~~ got the film that they had and find, without the preadventure (sic) of a doubt that one was a shadow and one was a man at that window...I can give you the authority of the US Navy Photographer...if you don't want to believe ...that's up to you...Brennan...saw a man at the window whom he identified and gave the description at 12:45 to the police and it went out over the radio... Brennan that evening went down and picked...Oswald in the lineup and identified him as being...the killer...If you have NO MORE...how many have been put in the electric chair with less evidence than that.

Then you have the palmpoint (gives Belli version)...the palmpoint that was found, not on the barrel or the wooden stock but on the metal barrel showing that the gun had to be disassembled...this is a gun that was bought by him under an assumed name...he had a picture taken by his wife...this is the gun that his wife identified...and that very afternoon when the police had traced down this gun that he had bought under the name of O Hidell from a place in Chicago and he denied that he bought it there...He told the police...he said this pistol (that was in the picture) I bought it in Fort Worth. He didn't. He bought it from a sporting goods place in Los Angeles...when they traced the gun to him...under the name O Hidell...and that is proof unequivocal.

(Describes search Irving Friday afternoon...went to garage...blanket...empty)

(Long omission as nothing worth recording.)

If you say ALL of the cops are no good then you might get a different rumor. And a different conclusion. But we must rely on SOMEONE in this country...we must rely on police SOMEPLACE. So we took them in Illinois...we took them...Man della a policeman in New York...and we got the same conclusions everywhere...Fingerprint found on the bag...palmpoint on the cardboard boxes...(omission)

Fiber of the jacket that Oswald wore found on the gun...Lovelady not Oswald in the doorway...Inside of three minutes he is out of that building...He never asked for permission to leave the building...It was only after Oswald was not there, the sole employee, when they lined them all up to find out if anyone had left that building...it was only then they found out Oswald was gone...he was the only man that was missing...He walks up Elm St he get a bus then he grabs a cab. Later he was to deny to the police that he was in a bus but they found a transfer in his pocket. These little things that we fans of James Bond or Earle S Gardner we know the importance of these LITTLE things in tying a case together...(OMISSIONS)