

Office memo

MARK LANE, we are informed, has made himself a bundle chronicling the conspiracies that attended and followed the assassination of President Kennedy. The New York lawyer was among the first to suggest the possibility that it was not Lee Harvey Oswald alone—but rather a band of conspirators—who murdered the President. Lane presented evidence which shook the nation.

Lane's next conspiracy involved the shortcomings of the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination. In his book, *Rush to Judgment*, and in many lectures and radio and television programs, he showed, quite convincingly in some respects, how the Commission had overlooked evidence that might have diluted if not exploded its conclusion that Oswald was the lone killer.

The indefatigable Lane has now produced another book about another conspiracy, *A Citizen's Dissent: Mark Lane Replies*. Here Mr. Lane is on much less stable ground if our own experience is at all representative. We confess that we have not read all of this new volume, which we found a rather tedious catalogue of grievances against the news media for failing to give him the attention he felt he deserved.

In complaining of the cold treatment he received from a number of liberal publications, Lane cites his experience with *The Progressive*: "I called Morris Rubin, the Editor of the publication, and he did agree to read the article [Lane's first essay developing the theory of conspiracy in the assassination], although he informed me that he had just put the magazine to bed and that no new article could be published for at least a month. 'I presume that by then the subject may be forgotten,' he [Rubin] said."

This tale designed to make Rubin so lacking in judgment that he would say that "the subject may be forgotten" in a month is wholly fictitious. What Rubin did say was that *this first article* might be dated in a month, and he went on to encourage Lane to write a second article. In response, Lane wrote Rubin December 11, 1963: "It was very refreshing to talk with you in reference to the article that I wrote. I am indeed sorry I reached you just a little too late for the January issue. *I am inclined to agree with you that the article may be seriously out of date by February.*"

In that letter Lane wrote that he was hoping to get to Dallas and that "the article that results from that visit may be more impressive. I will send it to you as soon as it is completed . . ."

On December 30, 1963, Rubin wrote Lane: "I hope greatly that you can go to Dallas. If you do and if an article results from that experience, I would hope to have an opportunity to see it."

But Lane, who in his new book attempts to build a conspiracy of silence, did not respond to that letter and did not send the suggested article—or any other.

Some conspiracy!

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