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From

Mabley's Report:

Oswald's Side Taken in 2 New Books

BY JACK MABLEY

AS LONG AS historians continue to write about the 20th century, they are going to raise the question whether President Kennedy was assassinated by Lee Oswald, and only Lee Oswald, Nov. 22, 1963.

We've had a respite from the speculation—and rumors for a year, but they will be rekindled soon. Two books maintaining that Oswald did not shoot the President will be published this summer.



JACK MABLEY

A well-known publishing house, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, will print "Rush to Judgment" by Mark Lane.

Lane is not a nut. Some British critics who have seen his manuscript are impressed with his evidence and arguments. A New Statesman critic said the book will demonstrate that the Warren report "bears the same relation to the facts about Kennedy's assassination as Adlai Stevenson's report to the U. N. bore to the reality of the Bay of Pigs."

VIKING PRESS ALSO is printing a book of similar nature by a young man who heard Lane lecture at Cornell university and was moved to begin his own research.

A major point made by Lane centers on an FBI report on the assassination, which states that a bullet was found on a stretcher used to carry the President. "Medical examination . . . revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees downward, that there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body,"

the FBI report said.

The Warren report said one bullet hit the President's head and a second went thru his neck and struck Gov. John Connally. The Warren report acknowledges only two bullets hitting the President; the FBI reports three.

Lane also tells of a railroad supervisor who heard a shot and saw a puff of smoke from the overpass in front of the President's car.

I think the books will be taken seriously, especially in Europe, because many persons prefer an unsolved mystery to the prosaic collection of facts in the Warren report. It hurts less to have sacrificed a loved President to an international conspiracy than to the mad impulse of a repugnant malcontent.

"OVER A THIRD OF CITY CRIMES CLEARED IN '65" read the headline in a small morning newspaper yesterday. O, how they glowed down in the public relations office at police headquarters. That ought to make O. W. happy enough to authorize 10 more press agents.

One reason J. Edgar Hoover has little use for Chicago's police superintendent is the way the Chicago police distort statistics.

The headquarters press agents have issued a handsome two-color, chart-filled book called "Chicago Police Statistical Report 1965."

Part 1 is "Offenses and Clearances." It gives the number of actual offenses—murder, manslaughter, assaults, burglaries, rapes, and thefts—and the "clearances."

The city's clearance percentage was 35.7 of all major crimes. I think a more interesting journalistic approach to the story might have been "NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF CITY CRIMES NOT CLEARED IN '65."

However, the major concern of this observation is what Wilson calls "clearances." A clearance is an arrest. I combed the whole mess of statistics, but nowhere could I find how many convictions resulted from the arrests or how many people listed as "clearances" were found not guilty of the crimes which their arrests presumably cleared.

THE ABSURDITY of statistics is a standing joke with knowledgeable policemen. A punk is arrested and admits three burglaries. By the time the statistics arrive at 11th and State streets, 43 burglaries are "solved" by hanging them on this one guy.

A man buys a watch for \$125. It is stolen. The statistic on his loss lists the watch as valued at \$49.50. This makes it a minor theft, by a margin of 50 cents.

This business of palming off an arrest as a "clearance," tho, is the worst deception yet. It encourages policemen to make wholesale arrests with no thought of getting a conviction. They pick on losers, so there isn't much beef about abuses.

The press agent word "clearances" has no relation to the arrest and conviction of a person responsible for the crime.