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From

ADVERTISER Montgomery, Ala. M-66.027 S-81,485

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Doubters

There has always been a number of people, probably a substantial number, who mostly on intuition were convinced Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone in his assassination of President Kennedy.

These doubters have been given new ammunition in yet another book written on that tragic event. The latest is "Rush To Judgement" by Mark Lane, a 39-year-old New York lawyer who was asked by Oswald's mother to represent her son's interests before the Warren Commission. The commission denied the request, and Lane has not relaxed since in his efforts to belittle the findings of that group.

Lane, whose publicity-hunting tactics at times seem to violate the no-advertising rules of the bar, has made serious charges in his book. Namely, he charges that the Commission was determined from the outset to prove that Oswald was guilty and "evidence against him was magnified, while the evidence in his favor was depreciated, misrepresented or ignored."

For example, Lane claimed the War-

ren Commission interviewed 90 witnesses who were along the parade route where Kennedy was shot and that 58 of them said they thought the shots came from a "grassy knoll" rather than from the Textbook Depository window.

Lane also again brought up the much-debated question of the path of the bullet or bullets which killed the President and wounded Gov. John Connally. The commission, after much study, concluded that one bullet tore through Kennedy's neck and then proceeded through Connally's back, wrist and thigh. Yet this bullet, as the commission itself admitted, was practically unmarked. Lane insists this could not be so.

It is probable that the debate on he path of the bullet or bullets — had they been fired from the rear and above, as the Commission concluded, or from the front as some skeptics have always insisted — might quickly be resolved if photographs and x-rays made during the autopsy were revealed.

Ironically, members of the Warren Commission never saw the photographs because Warren felt it would be in bad taste for the members, even in secret, to look at pictures of the President's corpse. The whereabouts of the photographs are unknown.

With this one exception, the Warren

Commission report was awesomely thorough—as attested by the text of 469 pages, an appendix of 408 pages and 26 volumes of testimony and exhibits.

Lane's book falls far short of tearing down the Warren commission report but it will inevitably give the doubters more reason to doubt.