

One Man's Doubts

A CITIZEN'S REPORT
 Report by Mark Lane, 200 pp.
 New York: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1964.

MR. ROSENBERG'S "MARK LANE'S REPORT" IS A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S WARREN COMMISSION. THE REPORT IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF REPORTS BY MR. LANE'S COMMITTEE FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IN HIS NEW BOOK, "A CITIZEN'S REPORT," HE ARGUES THAT THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT CONSPIRED TO KEEP MARK LANE FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN ANY MANNER. HE THINKS ABOUT THE WARREN COMMISSION WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER SERVED IF THE PUBLISHER HAD CHOSEN TO BRING HIS BOOK FROM DOUBLEDAY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE WARREN COMMISSION IS A SYSTEM OF CONTROL. IT IS A SYSTEM OF CONTROL WHICH IS NEVER POSSIBLE FOR US TO CHECK OUT ALL OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BOOKS THAT ARE BEING WRITTEN BY OTHER AMERICANS. THE COMMISSION IS A SYSTEM OF CONTROL WHICH IS NEVER POSSIBLE FOR US TO CHECK OUT ALL OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BOOKS THAT ARE BEING WRITTEN BY OTHER AMERICANS. THE COMMISSION IS A SYSTEM OF CONTROL WHICH IS NEVER POSSIBLE FOR US TO CHECK OUT ALL OF THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BOOKS THAT ARE BEING WRITTEN BY OTHER AMERICANS.

I have not read the 26 volumes of the Warren Report, and I claim no special expertise regarding President Ken-

edy's assassination, although I guess I am an "anti-bolshist" (to borrow Lane's quasi-terminology, which defines every one in relation to Lane's position—which means that like the Warren Commission, I do not believe shots were fired from the now famous grassy knoll in Dallas. I have read the 200 pages of what the jacket of Lane's book calls his "reply to the defenders of the Warren Report, to the press and com-

MR. NAVASKY, editor of *Menasha*, is writing a book on Robert Kennedy as Attorney General.

...industry, to the... intellectuals and... and I do claim... regarding its... having checked out... of its claims... received... and... case... that Lane is guilty... which at... with a... of 197... year... for... argu... rests on... action... and motion picture... tests.

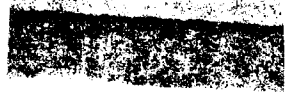
...the examples that follow... it is only because... of the book is to... the reader with a... endless supply of... allegedly com... against an honorable... Mark Lane by... and fearful... in the... I might say... starts with a... against all... and "I... of all... which... would have been... with the... picky quibbles and... that... the body... my confidence... in the... system of fact-gather-

...Page 51 Lane asks why... story on the first... one-hour docu... in the Warren Re... critics (including... and... of the... because the... made only minor... and supported the

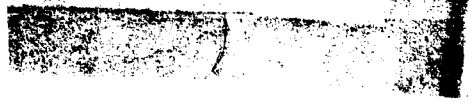
Warren Commission's findings... S.R.S. deliberately misled... audience as to the nature... of its program in order to ap... to the vast majority who... not accept the official ex... of the program." In fact TV... asks Lane... a letter from TV... informing him (in answer... his own inquiry) that the... was "based on informa... provided by the producer... of the program." In fact TV... story was accurate and... to Lane quoted out of... The letter explicitly... stated, "The producer gave us... of names of persons... interviewed, and the person... who wrote the Close-up for us... edited the list to a representa... group."

On page 38 Lane describes his dealings with Grove Press, which originally commissioned but never published "Rush to Judgment." He clearly implies that his book was the victim of censorship and states that the publisher made himself inaccessible. What he fails to mention, according to Grove Press publisher Barney Rosset, who calls Lane's account "totally false," was that Lane had failed to meet the delivery

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terms of the contract and when it was Dan Grove wrote him asking for his book. He did not send it to us," says Russell "and we consequently became somewhat disillusioned with him because we felt this was of great importance."

On page 28 Lane tells how his appearance on David Suskind's "Hot Line" program was canceled. According to Lane the "producer" told him it was canceled because "WPKF is owned by the Daily News and David has a terrible contract with the station. He cannot control the programs." She added that David had been ordered to cancel my appearance and in doing so he "was just following orders."

David Suskind's version is quite different: "When I discovered that Mark Lane had been invited to appear, I raised holy hell with the staff member . . . he was, in my view, grossly muddying the issues of the Commission's report. I ordered the invitation . . . withdrawn forthwith, telling the production person I didn't want him on the show. Since that production person is now my wife, I assure you that this version is correct. She informed me that she told Mr. Lane I

did not want him on the show, out of personal conviction. She said it had nothing to do with the station or any other sinister conspiracy, which he suggested was at the root of the issue."

On page 83 Lane cites a letter from C.B.S. producer Leslie Midgley to Raymond J. Marcus, an early critic of the Commission's conclusions. He quotes the last sentence of the letter (which confirms his point), and omits the first two sentences, which explain why it would be a mistake to attach importance to the material referred to in the last sentence.

One could, I suspect, go on ad infinitum. I know that honest men differ over where context stops and distortion begins; I know that many authors miss deadlines and aren't penalized; and I know that producers' assistants (even wives) have been known to tell disappointed guests one thing and their boss another. Therefore the main moral I would urge on Mark Lane is a heightened sensitivity to the unreliability of so-called eyewitnesses, even when the witness is the victim and the victim is oneself. ♦

Author's Query

For a biography of John Gregg Fee (1816-1901), Kentucky Abolitionist and clergyman, I would appreciate any pertinent information.

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