

CIA killed JFK, author claims

By Adrian McCoy

For The Pittsburgh Press

Mark Lane believes the CIA was responsible for the death of President John Kennedy. But don't call it a conspiracy theory.

"There was a trial. This is not a theory, but a verdict," Lane said at a lecture at Borders Book Shop in Bethel Park last night.

Lane was in town to talk about his book "Plausible Denial: Was the CIA Involved in the Assassination of JFK?" More than 200 people packed Borders to hear the lawyer/activist/writer who has spent 25 years investigating the incident.

In "Plausible Denial," Lane outlines the results of a defamation case involving E. Howard Hunt and the conservative Liberty Lobby newspaper The Spotlight. Hunt sued the publication over an article by former CIA operative Victor Marchetti linking Hunt and the CIA to the assassination.

Lane also wrote the 1966 best seller "Rush to Judgment," which challenged the veracity of the Warren Commission's findings in its investigation of the assassination.

Lane outlined some of the key findings that emerged from the litigation, which form the basis for



Mark Lane
Speaks at Borders

his thesis in "Plausible Denial."

The CIA's motive, he believes, was Kennedy's plans to end the war in Vietnam, dismantle the CIA and set up a new intelligence agency. This show of strength threatened the agency.

"The CIA saw American presidents as transients who passed through their administrations,"

Lane said.

He says people still come up to him after lectures to share their experience of Nov. 22, 1963. Everyone remembers where they were the day Kennedy died, he said. "Everyone except Howard Hunt," noting that Hunt gave conflicting versions of his whereabouts.

In the original 1981 lawsuit, the court awarded Hunt \$650,000 in damages. The case went back to court, with Lane defending Liberty Lobby. "I felt we could prove the truth of the article, not simply a lack of malice," Lane said. The second jury found the magazine not guilty.

"The New York Times has yet to run a story," he said. He added that the Times won't review "Plausible Denial."

The next edition of the book will include a petition on the back cover demanding the appointment of a special prosecutor to reopen the case.

"The soul of this nation is in jeopardy as long as we allow the death of JFK to go uninvestigated," Lane said.

"Nobody was even given a ticket for killing him. It was a murder. Crimes should be prosecuted. They shouldn't be the basis of books and movies."