

Action!

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From:

The Editors Corner

by

Charles Lacoste, Jr.

IS COOPERATION POSSIBLE ?

What a strange occurrence this city has witnessed in the past few days. The Director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission has gone to jail for refusing to divulge his sources of information. There have been charges and counter-charges by both the District Attorney and the Metropolitan Crime Commission of undue interference on one hand and complete neglect on the other.

The strange thing is that both adversaries are constituted to achieve the same end, the detection and eradication of crime in our city. Although this does not imply a relationship devoid of friction, by its very nature, the Metropolitan Crime Commission is apt to rub official bodies as the Police Department and the District Attorney's office the wrong way, the present state of open warfare should not exist.

The Board of Directors of the YMBC feels that this state exists, not due to a lack of good faith on the part of either, but because of a lack of communication or perspective by one or the other or even both.

Therefore, the Board, in emergency session, has resolved to offer itself as a forum to mediate the present disagreement. It is the feeling of the Board that when men dedicated to a common goal meet in good faith, their differences can be reconciled. It is of particular value if a third party, equally dedicated but uninvolved, conduct this meeting.

ACTION, therefore, strongly recommends to Mr. Kohn and Mr. Garrison and their respective organizations that they avail themselves of the Y.M.B.C.'s offer.

It is a shame that so much effort is wasted when there is so much work to be done.

There appears, in this issue, a paid advertisement entitled "A CHALLENGE TO DEBATE!" In this advertisement, Edward S. Butler, Executive Vice-President of the Information Council of the Americas, sets forth an opinion — that Lee Harvey Oswald was a Communist and killed President John F. Kennedy to advance revolution in America. This opinion is diametrically opposed to that of Mark Lane as expressed in his book and from the podium of the YMBC.

President Milton Fletchinger has invited both men to meet before the YMBC and debate the matter.

ACTION feels that such a debate would be not only interesting, but also productive and in the national interest.

It is perhaps necessary to enumerate the reasons why ACTION feels this debate would be both productive and in the national interest. First, as to being productive:

- 1.) The difference of opinion between the two men can be clearly stated. It is that Lee Harvey Oswald was a Communist, that he killed President Kennedy and that his motivation was to advance revolution in America.
- 2.) Both men are qualified to discuss the question: Mark Lane has dedicated the past four years to the subject, has authored a best-selling book on the subject and has worked, consulted, or discussed with numerous other analysts.

Ed Butler has been actively engaged in a crusade against Communism since 1961. His role in the crusade has been as a specialist in propaganda techniques. He has, in this role, testified before committees of both Houses of Congress. Furthermore, he has not only studied Oswald from his writings and recorded activities, but met and debated him. His recognized competence in this field certainly qualifies him to assess Oswald's political philosophy and motivation as well as anyone.

- 3.) The answer to the question of who is qualified to discuss whether or not Oswald pulled the trigger seems to hinge on the availability or access to evidence. The veracity of anyone's information may certainly be examined in debate.

That the resolution of such a question be attempted in a productive manner would be in the national interest is to ACTION self-evident.

ACTION, therefore, urges both parties to accept Mr. Fletchinger's invitation to debate and respectfully suggests the subject should be:

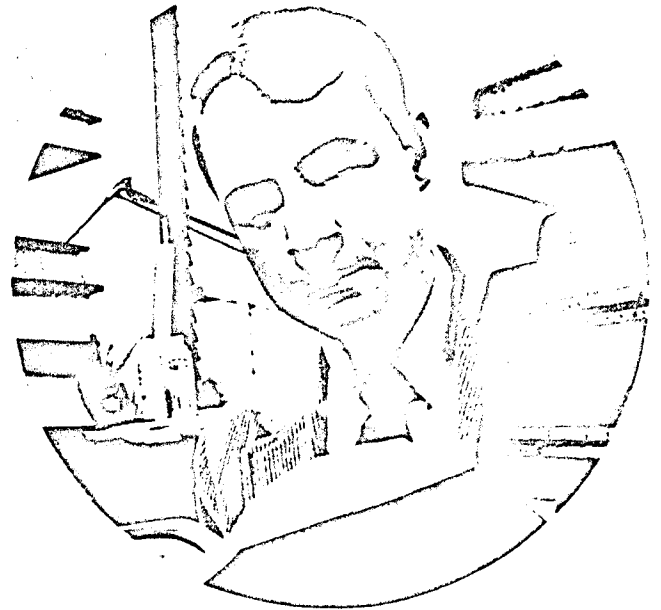
"Resolved: That Lee Harvey Oswald was a Communist and killed President Kennedy to further revolution in America.

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THE Y.M.B.C. OF NEW ORLEANS

From: ED BUTLER

To: MARK LANE

A CHALLENGE TO DEBATE



Mark Lane, the so-called "critic" of the Warren Commission, is actually only critical of *part* of the evidence—the vast majority to be sure—which would indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was a Communist, and killed President Kennedy to advance revolution in America.

The 26 volumes of the Hearings and the Report of the Warren Commission contain 3,154 exhibits and the testimony of 552 witnesses culled from 26,550 FBI and Secret Service interviews . . . a total of 10½ million words altogether. No one can "agree" or "disagree" with that vast bulk of material, much of it conflicting.

Oswald succeeded remarkably in his aim of fomenting revolution, as the rise in riots and confusion in America since 1963 indicates. By smashing the highest symbol of national authority—the Presidency—Oswald encouraged a whole legion of Communists, and criminals to surface and seize the spoils through violence. There are abundant proofs to show that revolution was Oswald's dream.

Actually, Mark Lane (no doubt unwittingly) is helping to make that dream come true, with his innuendoes and concoctions which undermine

public confidence in the FBI, the CIA, and the office of the Presidency.

This is not funny, although Lane gets laughs from the unthinking and gullible. Without the FBI, our domestic eyes and ears, riots and sabotage would rage continually in America.

Without the CIA, our eyes and ears abroad, millions of Americans could be vaporized in a sneak attack.

And we know where hatred of the Presidency can lead.

Because he is probably the best detective fiction writer since Arthur Conan Doyle, a glib speaker, and totally unimpressed by truth, Lane has raised his tiny fraction of conjecture into public prominence. Far more significant and substantial material lies buried in the Warren Report and Hearings, unknown to the public.

In short, there is another side to the story.

The YMBC has heard Lane's side twice, for a total of nearly three hours. His words have reached hundreds of thousands of people on campuses and through news-media, cloaked in the prestige of our podium.

When I challenged Lane's attempt to ramrod a dangerous resolution through, by amending it so that it would require full disclosure of his own background, he balked. Later he began to accuse me, at first by implication and then directly, on WDSU-TV of "Right Wing Extremism", just as Lee Harvey Oswald did when I debated him on WDSU radio.

This charge is as ludicrous as the American Nazi Party's accusation that I was "pro-Communist", for producing the film "Hitler In Havana!" for INCA. Despite the fact that this anti-Nazi/Communist film was broadcast throughout the nation on TV by the Schick Safety Razor Company, Lane did not hesitate to hurl the terms "fascism" and "extremism" at me. But judging by Lane's own background, furnished to us by Congressman F. Edw. Hebert and other reliable sources, anyone to the right of Gus Hall might seem extremist and fascist to Lane.

Lane also has characterized me as "the only person known to have lost a public debate with Lee Harvey Oswald". A recording of that debate is available, entitled "Oswald: Self-Portrait In Red". Some say Lane's opinion of that record is the best indication of where his sympathy lies. You can purchase the recording, hear Oswald, and judge for yourself, by simply sending in the coupon below. All funds go to INCA, a non-profit, private organization, comprised of over 300 civic leaders, liberal, moderate and conservative, headed by Dr. Alton Ochsner. Unlike others, we prefer not to profit by our President's death.

Meanwhile, as an example of the kind of thing that Lane would rather not discuss, did you know:

1. That Mark Lane's article, "A Lawyer's Brief for Lee Harvey Oswald", was first published in the NATIONAL GUARDIAN, an officially-cited Communist front publication, less than one month (December 19, 1963) after the assassination? (How's that for rushing to judgment?)

2. That Oswald had written six letters to, and received two replies from, the Communist Party USA shortly before the crime? Not to mention detailed instructions for organizing a Chapter, in a letter from the Fair Play for Cuba Committee?

3. That Oswald was known as violently pro-Communist from his early teens by schoolmates, who testified about it under oath, thus smashing ideas of a double agent? (Unless the CIA is recruiting operatives from Junior High School).

4. That during the hearings, when FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover was questioned by Congressman Hale Boggs about Oswald's motive for killing Kennedy, Hoover said:

"My speculation Mr. Boggs, is that this man was no doubt a dedicated Communist. He prefers to call himself a Marxist, but there you get into the field of semantics. He was a Communist, he sympathized thoroughly with the Communist cause."

The real "assassination plot" is the frantic effort by Lane and others to obscure from the American people the simple fact that Oswald was a dedicated Communist.

Since the confrontation, we have been trying to coax Lane to debate all pertinent matters, including his qualifications and my own. No luck yet. However, these facts can be brought out in other ways, and this advertisement is one of them.

I invite you to write to INCA for "The Invisible Invasion", an analysis of Oswald and revolution from the Congressional RECORD, using the coupon below. Your name will be placed on the list for other material as it becomes available.

I appreciate the support of many good friends in the YMBC who are anxious to get both sides of the story told.

+ Hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Volume V, page 104.

Clip and Mail

TO: ED BUTLER
c/o INCA, P. O. BOX 53371
New Orleans, Louisiana 70150

Please rush me the following:

....."Oswald: Self-Portrait In Red" record albums @ \$3.98

....."The Invisible Invasion" @ 25c per copy

.....Check enclosed for \$..... Minimum Order \$1.00

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

TEL. No.....