Farewell America mystery

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The anxiously awaited showing of "Farewell America", a film commemorating the assassination of John F. Kennedy, was attended by over two-thousand people at UCLA's Dixon Art Center with one important exception—the film.

After having been postponed from November 22, Friday, the film had been rescheduled and representatives of the producers in Paris told local contacts at both UCLA and UC Berkeley, that the film would arrive by "courier" on Saturday, November 23.

The film is said to have extremely controversial overtones dealing with the conspiracy which led to the Dallas murder of the President. Although the actual contents of the footage has never been revealed, speculation has led some to believe that the film is primarily based upon a new book published in France by Nouvelle Frontieres (New Frontiers) Company, which was released in France and Western Europe a few months ago. The European title of the book is "L'Amerique Brule" and that edition has sold over 35,000 copies making it a certain best-seller in Europe.

At UCLA, Val Oleon, Associated Students Programs Committee Representative, announced to the huge crowd, "We regret to announce that the film 'Farewell America' has not arrived as expected and we are sorry. However, for those of you who are interested, we are showing a film by Stan Bohrman, which deals with the assassinations of President Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy." Another film, narrated by Chet Huntley, recalling the entire history of John Kennedy's life and presidency, was shown to the students. Nearly all of the thousands who came remained.

Considering the everpresent controversy about the assassination, the explosive nature of the book FAREWELL AMERICA, by James Hepburn, (not released in the U.S.) and the bizarre situations which have been characteristic of the Kennedy assassination story in general, the mysterious absence of the film and its courier is reason for genuine concern. For if the allegations of the expert critics of the Government's official position on the case (Warren Report: Oswald was alone; definitely not a plot; the CIA was nowhere in sight) are correct, it is not inconceivable that the film's courier received some interference when he attempted to enter the country.

One of the most outspoken critics, Mark Lane, tells in his latest book, "A Citizen's Dissent" (Holt, Reinhart & Winston) about the problems he had in simply getting his book published in this country. Initially he was turned down by fifteen of our nation's leading publishers; some of them didn't even read it and others heeded the warnings of Federal Agents who told publishing company officials that J. Edgar Hoover preferred that they reject the book. The book was RUSH TO JUDGMENT, and Mr. Lane finally had to go to a publisher in England to have it published. After its debut in Europe, where it was an immediate best-seller, Holt, Reinhart and Winston Co. accepted it for U.S. publication, where it became an immediate best-seller again.

What of the film and the book, FAREWELL AMERICA? That is a present mystery. We will investigate and report more as we learn.