

## Mark Lane on Pearson

On Nov. 10 you published a column by Drew Pearson consisting of a personal attack upon me and a defense of the Warren Commission Report: The column consisted of a series of false statements:

One, Mr. Pearson alleged that I refused to return from Europe to testify before the Warren Commission. The fact is that I twice testified before the Commission, once flying back from London immediately upon hearing that the Commission wanted me to testify again.

Two, Mr. Pearson states that the autopsy photographs and X-rays, essential documents to be examined even by a Commission conducting a cursory examination, were locked away so that they might not be employed in "a traveling museum to be shown at county fairs." Nonsense. No one ever suggested

such an idea. We do continue to suggest, however, that the Commission should have looked at the evidence before writing its report and that the evidence should now be available to competent pathologists, scholars and qualified nongovernmental investigators.

Three, Mr. Pearson states that the evidence has now "been turned over to the Archives Office." This too is untrue. It is presently under the supervision of the Department of Justice and may not be seen by nongovernmental persons for years.

Four, Mr. Pearson states that "it did not take much of an expert to fire three shots at the President's slowly moving car" and adds "This is not difficult shooting for an average hunter." First of all the evidence suggests that at least five shots were fired. Secondly the Commission secured the assistance of three of the best professional rifle experts in America. Two were unable to fire at a stationary target as rapidly as Oswald is alleged to have fired at a moving one and not one of the 18 shots fired by the experts struck the head or neck portion of the target—a feat allegedly accomplished by Oswald twice.

Five, Mr. Pearson writes "The Commission did not suppress anything." That statement is also false. Many of the documents submitted to the Commission have been sealed for 75 years. Photographs have been suppressed and mutilated. The original autopsy notes have been burned. The autopsy X-rays and photographs cannot be seen. The physical evidence, until recently entrusted to the local and Federal police, cannot be examined. Even the original transcripts of the witnesses' testimony is classified and unavailable for examination.

Six, Mr. Pearson continues "Commission members even put their work sheets in the final report." That statement is false. Even the official minutes of the Commission's

meetings have been suppressed and are unavailable for examination.

Seven, of less significance is Mr. Pearson's statement that I am the attorney for Lee H. Oswald's mother. I am not nor have I ever been. In the interest of the adversary system of jurisprudence I was asked to represent Oswald's interests before the Commission. The Commission refused to permit that representation. Mrs. Oswald was represented by another attorney, one chosen by the Commission.

MARK LANE.

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