

'Judges' of British Television Show

(130667)
London, Jan. 30—(UPI)—Two leading legal authorities, a Briton and an American, today agreed with the Warren Commission's conclusion of no conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy.

But the American urged the creation of a small, full-time commission to reexamine all evidence.

Professor Alexander Bickel, professor of law and legal history at Yale University, and Lord Devlin, a former British appeals court judge, also concluded that all evidence indicated that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone killer.

7 Million Watch

Both delivered their verdicts early today at the conclusion of an unprecedented four-hour-and-45-minute television program probing the circumstances and doubts surrounding the assassination.

An estimated 7 million British homes were tuned in to the British Broadcasting Corp. presentation, which began last night and ran past midnight.

Tempers of the participants flared during exchanges. They included New York lawyer Mark Lane, Philadelphia District Attorney Arlen Specter and attorney David Belin, of Des Moines, Iowa.

Both Specter and Belin were Warren Commission counselors and both back its conclusions against Lane's claims.

Lane Gets Annoyed

Lane, a critic of the Warren Commission, clashed frequently with moderator Kenneth Harris, a noted BBC newsmen who spent some time in the United States interviewing witnesses and Warren Commission members. Harris repeatedly cut off Lane in midsentence, saying that he was not keeping to the point.

"I didn't come 7,000 miles for this," Lane said bitterly at one point.

The BBC switchboard was jammed for about an hour following the program with calls criticizing Harris for not allowing Lane ample opportunity to rebut arguments, a BBC spokesman said.

'Part of Wisdom'

Bickel said he was not completely satisfied with the "one-

bullet hypothesis" on which the Warren Commission's entire case came to rest—that the same bullet which passed through President Kennedy hit Governor Connally.

Not Indispensable

But the single-bullet case, Specter said last night, "is not indispensable to the commission's findings that Oswald was the single assassin."

He retained his composure and precise delivery even late in the broadcast when some of the other participants—most notably Lane—were showing signs

of short temper after nearly five hours on the air.

The subject of a polygraph-lie detector-test on Jack Ruby came up.

"What's a polygraph," the moderator asked.

"Cricket question, that," Specter smiled. He then explained, quickly and in easily comprehensible language, the functions and purpose of the polygraph, and its role in the commission's investigation.

Mysterious Deaths

The inquiry featured the world premiere of the film version of Mark Lane's controversial book, "Rush to Judgment!"

bullet" theory of Kennedy's death and argued that as long as the slightest doubt remained, "the part of wisdom would be to convene a small, full-time body to look into the evidence again."

The heart of the Warren Commission's conclusions is the "one-bullet" theory—that a single bullet entered the President's neck from behind, exited from his throat and wounded Texas Gov. John B. Connally, seated in front of Kennedy in the limousine.

Devlin said, "There is not a clue, not a thread of evidence (in the Warren report) to show who others in a conspiracy might have been. What good would it do to reopen the whole case? I don't think the public interest would be served. Let him (Kennedy) rest in peace."

Specter Explains

Specter disclosed an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the report's technical foundation, explaining such complex points

as the "one-bullet hypothesis" on the events of Nov. 22, 1963.

"It is important to note the difficulty of proving a negative as opposed to a positive," he said in reference to theories about deaths of witnesses and about possible conspiracies.

He was pointedly sharp at times in his rebuttals of Lane's arguments. At one point, after Lane had cited large numbers of witnesses who testified that they heard shots coming from a point other than the Texas Book Depository, Specter snapped:

"This is an investigation, not an election. We didn't just count numbers. We evaluated other factors, too."

Source of Shots

In the Warren Commission's research, Specter, then an up-and-coming Philadelphia attorney, was assigned to determine the source of the shots, the number of assassins, the exact manner in which the President and Gov. Connally were shot, and the exact sequence of events.

He began his investigation March 16, 1964.

Specter was most instrumental

See No Conspiracy in Kennedy Death

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in which he attempted to prove that Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

The film also sought to prove the late Jack Ruby was an agent of the Dallas Police Department, that at least eight key witnesses had died mysteriously and that the Warren Commission had attempted to suppress material evidence.

In his closing summation, Devlin said, "The Warren Commission's report concluded that Oswald was guilty. I see no reasonable doubts of this, and I think it needs no further examination."

Bickel concluded there was "no shadow, no scintilla of evi-

dence pointing to a conspiracy." As for Ruby, he said:

"Poor deranged, unstable Ruby — if he was the conspirator, God help the rest of the conspiracy."

Central Question

Bickel emphasized there was no question as to the honesty and sincerity of the Warren Commission and its findings. But he declared the "central question" is still the "one-bullet" theory.

During the program, a British Royal Marine sharpshooter in the BBC studio twice fired three blank shot in quick succession from a 6.5 mm Italian rifle of the

type believed to have been used as the murder weapon.

The rifleman at his first attempt fired three shots in 2.6 seconds, or less than one second each time. On a second try he fired three shots in 3.8 seconds.

Experts had found that Oswald's rifle could not fire two shots in less than 2.3 seconds.

The scale model of Dealey Plaza, built at the BBC's scenic workshops, showed viewers the position of the President's motorcade at the time of the assassination. It included a three-foot-scale model of the Dallas School Book Depository, constructed so that a television camera could look down on the model motor-

cade through the window from which the shots were fired.

Producer Richard Francis said "the fearful possibility remains that there is alive today someone who set out to kill the President . . . was Lee Harvey Oswald alone or was he part of a conspiracy?"

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