

FILM TO EXAMINE KENNEDY INQUIRY

'Rush to Judgment' Assails Warren Group Findings

A 150-minute documentary film called "Rush to Judgment," dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy and the findings of the Warren Commission, is in the final stages of preparation here.

The movie is being co-produced by Mark Lane, the New York lawyer and author of the new book of the same title, and Emilio de Antonio, who also directed the film. The book by Mr. Lane, a former New York assemblyman who was hired by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald as her legal aide before the Warren Commission's investigation involving her son, was published Aug. 13 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Mr. de Antonio was last represented on the local screen by "Point of Order," the successful documentary on the McCarthy hearings in Washington.

The director describes the forthcoming movie as a "strictly visual microcosm" of Mr. Lane's lengthy book, which "questions the investigational procedures of the commission under Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence with cross-examination as the cornerstone."

Oswald's Guilt Left Open

The film, he said, asserts neither the guilt or innocence of

of Lee Harvey Oswald as the killer of the late President.

"But we attempt to illustrate that certain key witnesses and pertinent areas were bypassed," he added.

Eighty per cent of the film was photographed last March and April in and around Dallas, with Mr. Lane and Mr. de Antonio supervising a camera unit recruited from San Francisco. The remainder of "Rush to Judgment" utilizes stock footage on the assassination and its aftermath. That part was bought from station WFAA-TV in Dallas.

According to the director, one major and one independent American movie company have already expressed interest in exhibiting the black-and-white documentary, whose budget was \$250,000. He said:

"Unsubstantiated rumors come from the three major television outfits in England, headed by the British Broadcasting Corporation, that nearly total our entire budget."

18 Hours of Film Shot

The original footage, totaling nearly 18 hours of running time, was shot in 16-mm. "to allow greater freedom of movement." A final, 35-mm. print, as edited into two and a half hours of playing time, is expected in three weeks.

The format of "Rush to Judgment" is that of a courtroom investigation, with Mr. Lane speaking a prologue and a resumé. Among the persons interviewed for the documentary were 18 witnesses to the shooting.

Six of them, Mr. de Antonio said, "were railroad workers standing on the overpass who were never even interviewed by the commission and who claim to have heard one additional shot from behind a wooden fence."

Key subsidiary roles are taken by five Dallas people, never summoned for testimony, who had vital evidence about Jack Ruby. Another person prominent in our film is Penn Jones Jr., the outspoken editor and publisher of The *Middleman* (Tex.) *Journal*.

AP95

RADIO-TV

(NEW YORK) -- THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION HAS PURCHASED A TWO-HOUR FILM CHALLENGING THE WORK AND FINDINGS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

EMIL DE ANTONIO, A CO-PRODUCER OF THE FILM, SAID YESTERDAY THAT BBC HAD PAID \$40,000 FOR THE FILM, WHICH HE SAID WAS "THE MOST MONEY THAT HAS EVER BEEN PAID FOR A FILM FOR A SINGLE TRANSMISSION BY ANYBODY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM."

HE SAID THE TELECAST IN BRITAIN WOULD BE ON JANUARY 29TH AND THEATER SHOWINGS WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN A FEW DAYS EARLIER UNDER SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE FILM IS CALLED "RUSH TO JUDGMENT," AND TAKES ITS TITLE FROM THE BOOK BY MARK LANE. LANE, THE OTHER CO-PRODUCER, INTERVIEWS 8 PERSONS IN THE FILM.

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B.B.C. BUYS MOVIE ON WARREN PANEL

Pays \$40,000 for Lane Film —Will Show It Jan. 29

N.Y. Times
A two-hour film challenging the work and findings of the Warren Commission on President Kennedy's assassination has been purchased by the British Broadcasting Corporation for a television showing, its co-producer said yesterday.

The co-producer, Emile de Antonio, said here that B.B.C. had paid \$40,000 for the film. He said it was "the most money that has ever been paid for a film for a single transmission by anybody in the United Kingdom."

Mr. de Antonio said the British telecast would be on Jan. 29, and London movie showings would probably begin a few days later. He made separate negotiations.

The film, "Rush to Judgment," has the same title as the best-selling book by Mark Lane, the New York lawyer who is the other co-producer. Mr. de Antonio said it had been written to provide "fairness" to Oswald. Half the money, he said, came from the New York lawyer, and the other half from the Osbornes, playwrights of "Tommy Richardson," and the rest from a group of backers.

The film is being shown here in a private screening. A private screening took place yesterday at the Museum of Modern Art. The film offers interesting details of the assassination by Mr. Lane, as well as television news reports and programs.

Mr. de Antonio describes it as "a plea for the defense" against the findings by the Warren Commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed President Kennedy and wounded Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas.

In the interviews, seven eye-witnesses said they believed the shots came from a grassy knoll behind and to the right of the President's limousine.

Three said the Warren report had persuaded them that the shots must have come from the Texas School Book Depository

to the rear, where the commission held Oswald was firing.

One of them, S. M. Holland, a railroad signal supervisor, guided Mr. Lane to a point behind a picket fence where he and others believed they had seen a "puff of smoke." They crossed a steam line, which commission lawyers contend may have given off some vapor.

Also interviewed was Mrs. Aquilla Clemons, who said she had "heard shots" when Patrolman Tippitt was killed, and ran into the street. She said she saw a "chunky" and "not very big" man reloading a gun and gesturing to a tall, thin man across the street before both went off in different directions.

Mr. Lane said she and some of the Kennedy assassination witnesses had never been called to testify. He said one of four bullets found after the Tippitt murder differed from the others, so "the possibility two men were involved in the murder deserved consideration."

Oswald's Mother in Debt

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Nov. 30 (AP)—Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, said today she went \$2,500 in debt last year while trying to clear her son's name. She said she had had to sell some of Oswald's personal effects "just to eat" but still "went into the hole \$2,500 last year." She was interviewed by newsmen on radio station WOAL.

"I was not paid a farthing,"
(p.60) Mark says about his BBC
appearance with his movie.
Everybody else, including his
producer, bragged that the
\$40,000 BBC paid was a record
in Britain. Lane's producer's
words are: "The most money
that has ever been paid for a
single transmission by anybody
in the United Kingdom."
\$40,000 is a lot of farthings!

BBC pays a record fee for Kennedy film

NEW YORK, Thursday.
The BBC has paid a
two-hour film which chal-
lenges the findings of
Warren Commission on
President Kennedy's as-
sination, one of the film's
co-producers said here
today.

Mr. Emilio de Antonio, who
said the BBC had paid \$142,000, the
most money that has ever been
paid for a film for a single trans-
mission by anybody in the
United Kingdom.

The British screening will be
on January 29, 1967, Mr. de
Antonio said, and London
cinemas will probably show the
film a few days earlier under
separate negotiations.

The film, "Rush to Judgment,"
has the same title of the book
by the New York attorney, Mr.
Mark Lane, who is the other
co-producer.

American distribution is still
being negotiated, Mr. de
Antonio said.

The film offers interviews of
18 persons by Mr. Lane, plus
television interviews and tapes.

Mr. Lane describes it as "a
brief for the defence" against
the findings by the Commission
headed by the U.S. Chief Justice,
Earl Warren, which concluded
that Lee Harvey Oswald alone
killed President Kennedy.

—Associated Press.

If not so styling himself, Mark has been permitting himself to be billed as "counsel for the defense". Some place I do not recall, in an untypical moment of honesty or a more likely one of caution, he said his agreement with Marguerite Oswald was that if he became convinced of her son's guilt he would withdraw as her counsel. This in itself is an odd concept of defense, if either is the right word.

On WFAN-TV with me the night of June 4, 1968, he acknowledged that even after writing Rush to Judgment he was satisfied that Oswald was not necessarily innocent.

This is entirely inconsistent with his pose, that of his publisher, that of the entire promotion of the book.

And this establishes that I am alone of those writing serious books who from the first proclaimed Oswald's innocence, in itself enough to invalidate this claim for Rush To Judgment and Mark, who is never daunted by lies or misrepresentations, particularly when preceded by a \$ sign.