

Lane JFK Film Due Next Week In New Orleans

W.J.F. 2/19/67

By MIKE PEARL

World Journal Tribune Staff

"Rush to Judgment," a documentary film based on Mark Lane's best-selling book, will open at 10 theaters next week in New Orleans, scene of the current investigation into the death of John F. Kennedy.

The film created a furor at its world premiere in London last month, causing Lord Devlin, an eminent British jurist, to remark: "Even a dead president is entitled to some bodily peace."

But Emile de Antonio, who directed and co-produced the film, considers the case of the Kennedy assassination far from closed.

"The investigation by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is the most important development in the case since the Warren Commission disbanded in September of 1964," De Antonio said.

"Garrison has the power to subpoena witnesses," De Antonio added. "His is a much more serious investigation than the Warren Commission's because he is not hampered with their preconceived notions."

'I'M A MUCKRAKER'

"I am a muckraker and I'm proud of it," De Antonio said. "The American body politic is covered with sores. I want to rip off the scabs. Muckraking is an honorable American institution going back to Lincoln Steffens. He did it with his articles and I do it with film."

For his first film, "Point of Order," a recap of the Army-McCarthy hearings, De Antonio studied 188 hours of television newsreels and then edited them

down to 97 minutes. The film received laudatory reviews but it took De Antonio months to find a distributor.

"As a muckraker," he said, "you don't have the same sources other people have regarding distribution or money."

HAS ANOTHER FILM

The 46-year-old film maker's second movie, "That's Where the Action Is," has never been seen in this country because "nobody in America wants to look at it."

The film, De Antonio said, was a "skeptical" look at urban politics during the 1965 mayoral campaign in New York City.

"The film is still doing very well in England," he said. "It had everything. I even had a shot of Lindsay actually riding a white horse in the Poconos."

CLASSMATE OF KENNEDY

The new film was made in Dallas, where De Antonio filmed interviews between Lane and witnesses to the assassination.

A former longshoreman, college teacher and barge captain, De Antonio was a classmate of Kennedy at Harvard.

"He was a shy, tanned, well-dressed kid who didn't seem to have anything on his mind in those days except having fun," De Antonio said. "The war changed all that for him and, I guess, for everybody."