



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*K P*  
*Law, Mark*

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio  
April 24, 1964

RE: APPEARANCE OF MARK LANE AT  
OHIO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
AUDITORIUM, COLUMBUS, OHIO  
APRIL 22, 1964

At 4:00 P.M., April 22, 1964, Mark Lane, who was introduced as a New York attorney; former member of the New York State Legislature; counsel for New York CORE; chairman of the Citizens Committee of Inquiry; and one who specializes in civil liberties and civil rights, appeared as a speaker at the auditorium of the Ohio Museum of Natural History, Columbus, Ohio. Appearance was sponsored by the Students For Liberal Action (SLA), a recognized organization on the campus of Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The title of his speech was announced as "Assassination of President Kennedy and the Defense of Lee Oswald". The affair was open to the public and an admission fee of 25 cents was charged. The appearance terminated at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Summarized below are the major points presented by Lane:

(1) At the time of Lee Oswald's arrest there was not one shred of credible evidence to link him with the assassination or with the murder of Patrolman Tippit and there is none today.

(2) The national news media distorted Oswald's alleged participation in the assassination. Lane exhibited photographs from various national magazines which he claimed had been altered; he said that the FBI had revealed that Oswald's pistol had been purchased in September, 1963, whereas "Life" magazine showed Oswald had in his possession the pistol in March, 1963; and pointed out differences in photographs of Oswald's rifle.

(3) The entire investigation is shrouded in secrecy. Lane's recent testimony before the Warren Commission was classified "Top Secret" even though he requested that his testimony be made public. He was made aware that any disclosure by him of his testimony would be in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code.

(4) There was disagreement among investigators in regard to the description of the rifle found on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository Building. After the FBI announced that the rifle found was a 6.5 mm Italian carbine, District Attorney Wade delivered his statements regarding the rifle and other evidence to confirm FBI findings.

(5) Dallas Police Chief Curry announced that paraffin tests administered to Oswald proved Oswald was the assassin "No question about it!" Lane claimed to have a copy of the results of this test which showed only nitrate deposits on Oswald's right hand, not on his face.

(6) The lone witness to the shooting of Patrolman Tippit, Helen Louise Markham, described the murderer as short, ~~stocky~~, with bushy hair, which description is totally different from that of Oswald. Lane said it was "difficult" to interview Markham because she had been sworn by agents of the FBI, Secret Service, and dozens of Dallas police officers not to discuss the matter.

(7) A used car lot owner, Warren Reynolds, who probably saw the fleeing murderer of Patrolman Tippit, later was mysteriously shot, his suspect assailant captured but later released because of testimony of an alibi witness. That witness, Betty MacDonald, former stripper in Jack Ruby's night club, later was arrested and committed suicide while in custody. These events have not been publicized.

(8) Every investigative agency has concluded that Oswald committed the assassination but details as to how he did it have been repeatedly changed.

(9) Three physicians at the Parkland Memorial Hospital who first administered to the dying President, stated he had been shot from the front and that the wound

is clearly an entrance wound. The doctors were not questioned by any investigator for more than one month, but then two Secret Service agents, with autopsy report in their possession, told the examining physicians they were in error and that the throat was an exit, not an entrance, wound.

(10) Lane interviewed witnesses who claimed the shot sounded as though it had come from the direction of the concrete overpass and not from the Texas Book Depository Building.

(11) How would Oswald know the proposed route of the Presidential motorcade was to have been detoured past the Texas Book Depository when the published map showed no such route? Why would the motorcade detour?

(12) After the assassination, authorities failed to "seal off" the area in the immediate vicinity and checked no outgoing transportation from the city.

(13) Oswald was an "extremely poor" marksman in the U.S. Marine Corps and the weapon allegedly used was of inferior grade.

(14) The FBI had interviewed Mrs. RUTH PAINE, shortly before the assassination and was informed that Oswald was employed at the Texas Book Depository. Oswald was not surveilled on the day of the assassination, nor were 23 other persons known to the FBI as subversive surveilled. Any person who had spoken out in favor of school integration, however, was "followed" on November 22, 1963, by the FBI, Secret Service, and the Dallas Police Department.

There is now no attorney to represent Oswald's interest or to closely examine evidence. Lane does not have the answer as to who assassinated President Kennedy, but will continue to investigate the crime and wants the American public to look for intelligible answers.

APPENDIX

MARK LANE

The "New York Herald Tribune" newspaper dated January 15, 1964, page 7, column 1, contained an article entitled "Oswald's Mother Hires Lane." This article stated that on January 14, 1964, Mrs. Marguerite C. Oswald, mother of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, announced she had hired Mark Lane to represent her slain son before the Warren Commission investigating the murder of President John F. Kennedy. According to this article, Mrs. Oswald stated she had been in contact with Lane during his stay in Fort Worth, Texas, the previous weekend. It was also pointed out that Lane had accepted the case although Mrs. Oswald stated she had no funds with which to pay him.

The April 2, 1964, issue of the "New York Times," page 37, column 5, contained an article captioned "Mother of Oswald Ends Tie With Lane." The article indicated Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said she had dismissed Mark Lane, her New York lawyer, and that he should stop any "organized campaign" on behalf of her son through his "Citizens Committee of Inquiry."

Pages 5 and 6 (two appendices) are withheld  
from release under 54.3.C. 552(4)(7)(D).