



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio
April 24, 1964

RE: Appearance of MARK LANE
at University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio, April 21,
1964

An article appeared in the April 16, 1964, edition of the "University of Cincinnati News Record," a weekly campus newspaper of the University of Cincinnati (UC), Cincinnati, Ohio, entitled, "LEE H. OSWALD's Counsel to Speak Here April 12." According to this article a campus group known as Students for Constitutional Freedoms would present Mr. Mark Lane, New York attorney and counsel for Lee Harvey Oswald, at 12:30 PM, Tuesday, April 21, 1964, in Annie Laws Auditorium. The article indicates Lane would appear to discuss the Oswald case and why he believes Oswald to be innocent of the assassination of the late President, John F. Kennedy. The article identified Lane as a former New York State Assemblyman who wrote a "legal brief" on the Oswald case. It is further indicated in the article that Lane was retained by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald on January 14, 1964, to represent her son before the Warren Commission and that since that time Lane has been investigating the Oswald case.

A characterization of Mark Lane and the New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee is attached hereto.

Lane introduced himself as having 13 years' experience as a criminal trial lawyer. His opening remarks deal with the concept of presumption of innocence, pointing out this is the foundation of our method in trying cases in the United States.

Lane indicates he believes there is a lack of this concept in the ordinary criminal case and in the major criminal cases the concept disappears and is sometimes replaced with a presumption of guilt as in the Lee Harvey Oswald case. Thereafter Lane criticized the manner in which the public press handled the Oswald case. He accuses the press of inventing statements and pictures relating to Oswald personally, the weapons and other evidence involved in this case. He states there is no case against Oswald and accuses the President's Commission of being afraid to hold public hearings and have counsel represent Oswald. He states that if open hearings were held it would prove Oswald is innocent.

Lane exhibited documents which he states he secured from the Office of the Dallas District Attorney containing specific evidence in the Oswald case. He points out contradictory public statements made concerning the assassination weapon being identified originally as a German Mauser 7.65 MM, then as an Italian Carbine 6.5 MM.

Lane discusses what he believes to be false statements made by police officers regarding Oswald's use of aliases and states his investigation conflicts with police statements about a taxi driver said to have driven Oswald away from the crime scene. Lane discusses the paraffin test given Oswald and concludes that if this test has any value it proves Oswald could not have fired a rifle on November 22, 1963.

Lane discusses what he describes as the original charges against Oswald for the murder of police officer Tippit. He reads what he states to be the entire affidavit of the only eyewitness to this murder, which affidavit he states is signed by Helen Louise Markham. Lane states that his personal interview with Markham shows a difference in the description of the person identified by Markham and the description of the individual broadcast by the Dallas Police Department immediately after this murder.

Lane discusses the differences in the clothing worn by Oswald on November 22, 1963, and the description given by witness Warren Reynolds. He describes how Reynolds was recently shot through the head and a suspect charged with this crime produced an alibi witness named Betty Mooney MacDonald, who Lane says was a former stripper at Jack Ruby's

night club and who later hanged herself to death in the Dallas Police Station. Lane draws a map of the assassination scene for the benefit of those present and enters into a lengthy discussion to show through use of statements made by medical personnel that President Kennedy was shot first from the front through the throat and that Oswald, said to be located some 75 yards behind the President's limousine in the Book Depository Building, could not have fired this shot. Lane concludes from his description of the assassination scene and the events which took place that the FBI, the Secret Service and the Dallas Police Department all directed their investigation to establish Oswald was the assassin and Oswald acted alone. Lane states that some witnesses to the assassination were coerced into making statements to support the theory that Oswald was the assassin and that he acted alone. Lane accuses medical personnel who treated the President immediately after the assassination of changing their testimony because of information furnished them by Secret Service officers.

Lane states that his investigation failed to identify a single witness other than the Dallas Chief of Police who believed that the assassin's shots came from the Book Depository Building. Lane thereafter speculates the assassin fired from a position in front of the Presidential limousine.

Thereafter Lane discusses what he calls the entire prosecution case against Oswald and he concludes that Oswald was not the assassin.

Lane then answered several questions from the audience which dealt with the points he discussed during the remarks.

Sources utilized in this communication and in the attached appendix pages have furnished reliable information in the past.

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 research under 5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (7) (D).