



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Boston, Massachusetts

May 15, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Re: Appearance of Attorney Mark
Lane at Westfield State College,
Westfield, Massachusetts
May 1, 1964

On May 6, 1964, a source advised that Attorney Mark Lane appeared at Westfield State College, Westfield, Massachusetts, on May 1, 1964, where he spoke to about 400 students concerning the Lee Harvey Oswald case.

This source advised that the following biographical sketch of Lane was prepared by a faculty committee and distributed at the door to those who attended:

"Mr. Mark Lane, 37-year old New York attorney, is Chairman of the recently formed Citizens' Committee of Inquiry, which is conducting an independent investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

"He has been affiliated with the American Labor Party of New York State.

"He was a supporter of Henry A. Wallace in the 1948 Presidential Campaign, as an assistant to Congressman Marcantonio of New York City.

"He was elected an Assemblyman to represent the Yorkville District of Manhattan in the New York State Assembly in 1961.

"In December, 1963, Mr. Lane prepared and published a defense brief for Lee Harvey Oswald. Mr. Lane was retained by Mrs. Marguerite C. Oswald to act as counsel for her son before the Warren Commission. On March 4, 1964, Mr. Lane appeared before the Commission and presented his

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

findings up to that date. He is continuing his investigation of the assassination, but through the independent Citizens' Committee, rather than in an attorney-client capacity.

"Since beginning his investigations, he has become convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald is innocent of the crimes charged against him, and he has announced that he will remain with the case."

The source advised that Mr. Lane took particular exception to statements in the biographical sketch that (1) he has been affiliated with the American Labor Party of New York State and (2) he was a supporter of Henry A. Wallace in the 1948 Presidential Campaign, as an assistant to Congressman Marcantonio of New York City. The source advised that Lane denied that either of these statements was true.

The source stated it was his understanding that the biographical sketch of Lane came from an anonymous letter addressed to an unidentified member of the faculty at Westfield State College.

This source advised that during his speech Lane commented on the following aspects of the Lee Harvey Oswald case:

Lane pointed out discrepancies in pictures of Oswald holding the gun allegedly used in the assassination of President Kennedy, which appeared in various publications, and claimed that some of these pictures were forged and doctored and therefore not authentic.

Lane commented that it was first said that the murder weapon was a 7.65 mm. German Mauser, which story was later changed when the FBI announced that in March, 1963, Oswald had purchased a 6.5 mm. Italian rifle.

Lane commented on the background of District Attorney Henry Wade and was critical of Wade's handling of the press following the death of President Kennedy. Lane

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

also criticized Chief Jesse Curry of Dallas for his statement following the death of Oswald to the effect that since Oswald was dead, the case was closed, and that there would be no further investigation. Lane stated that the Justice Department then ordered Wade to re-open the case and prove Oswald's guilt.

Lane, in referring to the paraffin test of Oswald, stated he has obtained a copy of the laboratory report from District Attorney Wade's office, showing that "Oswald may have fired a revolver but did not fire a rifle," thereby disproving Mr. Wade's statement that Oswald was the assassin.

Mr. Lane commented that Helen Louise Markham, the only witness to the Tippit shooting, had furnished Dallas Police a description of the Tippit killer, which was not the same description that Dallas Police had used for Oswald. Lane later interviewed Markham, who claimed that the Dallas Police had not used the description she gave them. Lane pointed out this incident as further proof that Dallas Police were trying to change the evidence to fit Oswald who they believed was the killer of President Kennedy, as well as Officer Tippit.

Lane also stated that several witnesses in this case had mysteriously disappeared and described some of the circumstances.

Mr. Lane also commented on various theories as to how and where President Kennedy was shot and stated there were a number of witnesses who claimed the shots came from the area of a concrete wall and overpass ahead of the President's motorcade, and not from the rear as claimed by the investigators.

Mr. Lane also pointed out discrepancies in the medical testimony, stating that at first doctors at Parkland Hospital had said the first wound was an entrance wound in the President's throat. He said they later changed their

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

story to say this was an exit wound, after being questioned by the Secret Service Agents, who had obtained an autopsy report from Bethesda Hospital.

Mr. Lane was critical of the FBI and Secret Service for not having Oswald under surveillance on November 22, 1963, when these agencies had considerable background information on him and as extraordinary precautions had been taken for the President's visit. Lane stated the FBI and other agencies wanted the public to believe that Oswald walked into the Bank Depository Building with a rifle in spite of all the security precautions taken that day.

The source advised that following Lane's speech there was a short question and answer period.

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."

LEE HARVEY OSWALD

A characterization of the NYCAHUAC is contained
in the appendix hereto.

Pages 6 and 7 (two appendices) are witness
from research under 5 U.S.C. 556 (b)(7)(D)