

1/13/78 HW: Just catching up w/mail, after 3 weeks in Fla. PPL is my abbrev. for People Magazine. Thanks for letters. Best, PM

TAPE TRANSCRIBED 12/4/78

ABC: MARK LANE

Barbara Walters: Refers to Guyana.

Fate or choice have often involved him in the most horrendous events of our time. Lane says he gets involved because nobody else will tell the truth.

L: I deal w/serious questions, & I know that when you deal w/serious questions, there are going to be people who take serious opposition to your doing so. I'm really not responsible, of course, for what the news media publishes (sic). And the media is of course entitled to publish false information and has a long, distinguished history for publishing false information in America.

BW: Who is this man who seems to feel that everyone is against him--the media, the CIA, the FBI, indeed the entire govt?

Is he a champion for truth, or just a man w/a hunger for publicity & a taste for conspiracy? Conspiracy No. 1: The murder of JFK.

Winning Margaret Oswald's permission, L tried to clear her son, LHOswald, before the Warren Comm. Failing, he wrote a bestseller, "Push to Jdgt, claiming that Osw like Kdy was the victim of conspiracy.

CONSPIRACY NO. 2: The murder of MLK. L's contention, his client JERay has been framed. He's taken on the whole House Assns Comm.

VIETNAM & another book by L, charging atrocities by Amer soldiers.

Some called the book irresponsible, but it did stimulate investigation.

WOUNDED KNEE, the confrontation between the USGovt & the Indians. L turned the case around, put the Govt on trial & won an acquittal for his client (PM NOTE: Russell Means shown; bears physical & facial resemblance to Jim Jones.)

And now GUYANA, where L's involvement w/the Ppl's Tmpl & Rev Jim Jones remains unclear. L charges the Govt knew for more than a year about the problems in Jonestown & failed to act responsibly, just as he says they've been irresponsible about getting to the truth about the Kdy & Kg assns.

(MORE)

He further charges that the Govt would like to shut him up, & he says he the documents to prove it.

BW to L: Why do you think you have so often been the target; you feel you've been maligned.

L: I know I've been maligned. The CIA document said, the way to destroy Mark Lane is, No. 1, to say that he's only financially interested. We know it's not true, but that the point to make about him.

No. 2, attack him for his politics.

No. 3, call him a publicity hound.

In other words, they said, doing all of these things would prevent him in television discussion programs, in radio discussion programs, prevent him from discussing conditions surrounding the death of Pres. K.

BW: ...you make statements you thought the CIA killed Kennedy.

L: I presented evidence which could certainly lead to that conclusion.

BW: Who do you think killed MLK?

L: The FB of I, I think. The evidence is clear.

BW: Mr. Lane, is there a link between the different cases that you've handled? Is there something common to each of them?

L: I don't like to see people get pushed around. I think when they are getting pushed around, someone should come forward and try to help them. I guess every case I've ever handled has been based on that philosophy.

BW: Tell me about your politics.

L: I consider myself to be radically committed to social change. I believe in precedent. I believe that socialism will come just as the dawn will come; that Communism will come, just as slavery was followed by feudalism, followed by capitalism, followed by socialism. It's not like believing in Santa Claus.

BW: We wanted to do this interview because we wanted to see what made ML tick, what he's all about. If you were a journalist and you had to describe you,

~~how~~ how would you describe ML?

~~in the future~~

L: He hated bullies.

BW: ML says he defends underdogs. His critics say he exploits them. And so Lane remains as controversial & complicated as the cases he takes.

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