

Lane

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1/25/79

The undated ~~PH~~ story on the scene Lane created at NED over a statement made by an unnamed cop makes me believe even more that he has flipped out, is really worried about his situation, and has become a player in one of his left-over scenarios.

Brill has not spoken to me. One of the editors checked a few minor points, so minor and insignificant I wondered what kind of treacle Brill was writing.

The WPast had a grilledcheese followup today. I'll enclose a copy.

Crowdson of the NYTimes is working on a piece based on a puff memo Lane wrote Jones that was leaked to Crowdson. Lane lies in it to pretend he has great p.r. working for Jones as soon as he signs Jones up.

Crowdson has not spoken to me but another reporter has read the memo to me.

I've taken and expect to take no Lane initiatives. I believe it will be much more appropriate if he does himself in and I expect to. I've not heard from the lawyer who filed charges with the bar and have not called him. Don't plan to, either.

But if he or anyone else asks I'll say what I know in response to any questions.

In addition, except as an interesting curiosity and successful con man the observation of whom can be entertaining and diverting I think the time is just when Lane is worth any serious attention or spending any time on.

Among responsible people he has already cut his own head off. One need only wait for it to find the basket.

Thanks and best,

# Lane Claims Government Deception in Ryan De

By HENRY BAILEY  
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Attorney Mark Lane said "deception" by the U.S. State Department and its embassy in Guyana was responsible for the death of U.S. Rep. Guy Ryan, D-Calif., four members of his party and more than 900 members of the People's Temple cult who later committed suicide or were killed.

Lane claimed the government knew of a stockpile of rifles, pistols and even a homemade bazooka at the People's Temple compound, statements by cult leader Jim Jones to lead as many as 500 people into suicide if threatened, and Jones' general unhealthy state of mind — and still it did not act to warn the lawmaker of the potential for disaster.

"They sent him off to Guyana, telling him that the only problem he would encounter would be that food and hotel accommodations would not be up to par," Lane said.

The attorney, who has been praised and criticized for his conspiracy theories, said he was acting as a go-between for Jim Jones, the leader of the cult, and Ryan, who was investigating reports that the cult was holding American members against their will in the jungle compound.

Cult members later shot and killed Ryan and four members of his party Nov. 18 and then committed mass suicide or were killed.

"The government's deception was responsible for his (Ryan's) death and for the death of 900 other Americans," Lane said. "If they (state department and embassy officials) are not legally guilty of murder, they are at least morally guilty."

He said officials knew as early as May 1978, from statements made by a dissident cult member, that there were some 200 to 300 rifles stored at the compound, at least 25 pistols and a homemade bazooka.

The woman was told by Richard McCoy, an embassy official who is now with the state department's Guyana desk, that, "When you get back to America, don't tell that to the American press," Lane said.

Lane made the remarks in partial response to news that a New York legal grievance committee had been requested to investigate reports by Washington Post staff writer Charles Krause that Lane knew Ryan and members of his party may have been served drugged food but withheld this information.

The request was filed by Jack Sando, a Washington lawyer, who claimed Lane violated a lawyer's code of professional conduct if the reports are accurate.

"The allegations are all false, every one of them," Lane said.

He said Krause inaccurately reported that he (Lane) did not eat a grilled cheese sandwich served him along with Ryan and the others, and said the journalist also erred in writing that Lane had brought cough drops to eat instead.

Lane said he ate every item of food served him in Guyana and said the only time he ate a substantial number of cough drops — which he brought because of the switch from cold U.S. weather to tropical Guyanese climes — was during the 24 hours he and Charles Garry, another attorney, spent in the jungle after escaping from the compound.

"I attribute all this to the ongoing campaign by the Central Intelligence Agency launched against me 15 years

ago, when I alleged even back then that there was another gunman on the grassy knoll," said Lane, a longtime critic of Warren Commission findings that President John Kennedy's death was probably the work of a lone assassin.

In another matter, Lane has warned Memphis police he will file suit for a "substantial" amount if the department does not reveal who leaked a supposedly libelous statement he claims an officer made to a writer for *Esquire* magazine.

"All I said I wanted was the truth," said Lane, who attempted to get the information yesterday in an at-times angry confrontation with police officials at their town headquarters.

"When I said 'truth,' everyone down there seemed to get nervous," Lane said. "I was afraid if I said the word any louder, the walls would collapse."

Clyde Keenan, police legal adviser, who met with Lane, said the attorney produced a tape recorder at the meeting held in the homicide squad office and said he intended to tape their statements for possible use in nationwide television broadcasts.

Keenan said the controversy stemmed from an alleged statement by a policeman to writer Steven Brill of *Esquire* that Lane was responsible for placing packets of Kool-Aid drink mix in his door and then reporting to police that People's Temple cultists may have placed them there as a death threat.

Lane said he brought his recorder because he wanted to get at the truth and — if police would not cooperate — he would "release the tapes to the national media."

He said the four officers he began the meeting with excused themselves when he brought out the tape recorder, but then "reinforcements" — in the person of Deputy Chief Jack Holt, arrived and demanded the machine.

"I told him he would be making a big, big mistake if he touched my property," Lane said, "and he took his hand back."

The attorney said he then asked Holt for help in identifying the officer but said Holt told him instead, "I order you to leave this office."

Lane said he later attempted to meet with Police Direc-

tor E. Winslow Chapman, but, after being to was at home ill, he filed a complaint with Affairs Bureau. He said bureau officers said try to have the name for him by Monday.

The Kool-Aid incident occurred Nov. 27 called officers to his home at 1177 Central and was threatened by the appearance of four Kool-Aid, wrapped in a plastic bag, which had in his door. A tub containing a type of soft with cyanide was responsible for the death of the People's Temple camp, investigators sa-

"We have investigated the incident," Keen we have no suspects."

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MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1979

## Probe of Mark Lane Is Reported

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawyer Mark Lane is being investigated in connection with a report he failed to issue warnings that grilled cheese sandwiches served by members of the Peoples Temple commune in Guyana might be drugged. The New York Times reported in today's editions.

The investigation by a legal grievance committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York apparently is the result of an article by Charles Krause in the Washington Post.

The Times said Washington lawyer Jack Sando urged the investigation after reading the story. The report said Lane may

have withheld information he felt could have prevented harm to California Rep. Leo Ryan and his party.

A grievance committee proceeding could lead to a disbarment of Lane if he is found to have done something wrong.

Ryan and four other persons were shot and killed as they prepared to leave Jonestown. The shootings were followed by mass murders and suicides of 900 members of Rev. James Jones' cult.

Lane was traveling and could not be reached for comment. But his Memphis law firm partner, April Ferguson, said her associate did nothing wrong.

### Mark Lane's Father Dies At 87

Harry A. Lane, 87, of Leonia, N.J., father of Memphis author and attorney Mark Lane, died of a heart attack yesterday in a Leonia drug store.

Mr. Lane said his father felt while shopping and was revived briefly by drug store personnel. "When his heart stopped again."

A retired Certified Public Accountant, Mr. Lane, originally of Pittsburgh, had lived in Leonia with his daughter, Dr. Judith Ann Lane, since his wife's death in 1969.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete yesterday, pending notification of Mr. Lane's daughter, who was attending a history seminar in San Francisco.

He also leaves another son, Lawrence Lane, a mathematics teacher in the New York public schools.

Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Thursday

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1978

### Mark Lane's Father Dies in New Jersey

Harry A. Lane, 87, of Leonia, N.J., father of Mark Lane, Memphis author and attorney, died yesterday in a Leonia drug store after suffering a heart attack.

Mr. Lane felt while shopping and was revived briefly by drug store personnel, a spokesman for Mark Lane said.

Mr. Lane was a retired Certified Public Accountant and was a native of Pittsburgh.

He also leaves a daughter, Dr. Judith Ann Lane, with whom he lived, and another son, Lawrence Lane of Queens, N.Y.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

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