

# Mark Lane's Conduct in Guyana Probed

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A lawyers' grievance committee in New York City has started checking into Mark Lane's conduct during the ill-fated trip of Rep. Leo J. Ryan to the Peoples Temple camp in Jonestown, Guyana, last fall.

The preliminary inquiry was touched off by a Nov. 24 article in The Washington Post quoting Lane as saying he had been warned beforehand that grilled cheese sandwiches served to the Ryan party might have been laced with tranquilizers or other drugs.

"But instead of warning anyone of that possibility, Lane said later that he simply did not eat the sandwiches," Washington Post reporter Charles A. Krause wrote.

Saying that he was "shocked to read about Mr. Lane's apparent misconduct," Washington attorney Jack C. Sando wrote to court officials in New York and urged a review of Lane's qualifications "to continue as a member of the bar of the State of New York."

"If the facts are as reported," Sando protested, "Mr. Lane's conduct is an ugly stain on our profession."

The complaint, which ultimately could lead to Lane's disbarment in New York if it is sustained, was referred to the Joint Bar Association Grievance Committee with jurisdiction over lawyers in Brooklyn. It has already asked Lane for his account of the episode and must now decide whether to move ahead with a formal investigation.

Lane, who was graduated from law school in Brooklyn and joined the bar in New York years ago, said in a telephone interview from his home in Memphis last night that he had sent a written reply to the Grievance Committee denying any improprieties. Lane insisted that he had been misquoted. He said he "never saw any grilled cheese sandwiches" that day, and would have had no reason to think they might be doped.

Lane was representing Peoples Temple leader Jim Jones "in various matters" during the Ryan trip to investigate conditions at the cult's Jonestown settlement. Several hours

after the lunch, Ryan, a California Democrat, and four others were shot to death at a nearby airstrip. More than 900 Temple members died at the camp the same day, many of them after drinking a concoction laced with cyanide. Jones was found shot to death, an apparent suicide.

In his complaint, which he confirmed yesterday, Sando cited canons of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility that he felt had been violated.

One requires lawyers to "assist in maintaining integrity and confidence in the legal profession." It is accompanied by a set of disciplinary rules saying in part that lawyers "shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation..." (or) engage in any other conduct that adversely reflects on his fitness to practice law.

Another canon states that lawyers should represent their clients zealously but "within the bounds of the law."

Krause quoted Lane as telling him, in a telephone interview Thanksgiving

United States from the Jonestown trip: "I brought along some cough drops which have a lot of sugar in them. I sure as hell wasn't going to eat the cheese sandwiches."

Despite Lane's reported disclaimers to the Grievance Committee, Krause, who is vacationing in Michigan, said the quotations were accurate and he added that Lane volunteered the remarks in the course of a friendly discussion about whether Krause had eaten one of the sandwiches.

"I say yes and he proceeded to tell me why he asked," Krause said. He said he suffered no ill effects and suspects there was nothing in the sandwiches despite Lane's suspicions.

San Francisco lawyer Charles R. Garry, the Temple's chief lawyer who made his way through the jungle with Lane, said Lane turned to him at one point during their flight and said: "Charles, you shouldn't have eaten the cheese sandwich." Garry, who had been at odds with Lane, said he asked him why he hadn't spoken up earlier. He said Lane replied, "Because we weren't speaking."

Day after both had returned to the

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He says he was later asked to help represent the committee as an attorney. "It was impressive that the ruling class—there was still middle class, highly educated, instead of Marxists strutting around, claiming to be the voice of the oppressed American values. It was a reflection of American," Lane says.

comptroller who fled the commune and contacted Lane in the United States before her second trip to Guyana. In November, Miss Dindorf, a wealthy 36-year-old one-time housewife from New York City, told Lane the basic reason that I wanted to live in Guyana was because I was "in love with my own life" and she contacted Lane "because she was the only lawyer in the United States."

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Lane recently installed an old upturned piano in his den for Mrs. Walden. On the walls of the den and living room are the pictures of his Civil War heroes, including the famous poster of the Civil Guard, pictures of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and a portrait of the late President John F. Kennedy. Mrs. Walden and Mrs. Ferguson are the only two women who have taken a law school graduate now studying for her Tennessee bar exam.

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"The transcript of the Ray guilty plea hearing indicates that Judge Preston Bates simply asked the jury to raise their hands if they agreed to accept Ray's plea."

Neighbors say they seldom see Lane and Kennedy but they have seen the poster of Ho Chi Minh, pictures of Khrushchev and Kennedy and brightly daubed abstract paintings by Lane and Ms. Ferguson at a law school graduate now studying for her Tennessee bar exam.

Billie are paid primarily through lecture fees. Lane says, "He declines to discuss this matter with me. It's a small fraction of the net worth of Billy Graham, who has probably never been attacked by any newspaper." He says this during a lecture in New York City, which is the only one of his appearances in the United States which ever went to the Citizens Committee of Inquiry.<sup>17</sup> The Washington-based organization he founded in 1971 to demand investigations of the King and Kennedy assassinations

He is under contract to the New York Book Concern, a New York-based publishing agency which also arranges appearances by Memphis politician Robert La Follette Parish. A spokesman for the firm says Lane gave about 150 lectures in 1978 at \$2,750 a lecture fee. Lane's share was about \$2,000 a lecture. He could have made

300,000 in present economy  
175,000 in recession

Lane, who also calls himself "a sincere investigator," reacts in a scaterish manner to attacks on him in the media on one day. Lane accepts them calmly in a mocking tone.

Like Ladd, who fought the French government and portrays himself as a freedom prisoner, Lane portrays himself as the victim of a massive U.S. conspiracy in his CIA voluntarily says about him. Among other things, he tells *Newswatch* magazine, "The plan was to let me go."

In Washington Post, The New York Times and CBS network, and most major news outlets in the United States.

His first supposed brush with this conspiracy began in his hometown, Lane says.

Most major tragedies, particularly later national tragedies, she blames on the U.S. government. "Three bullets and the American need mean a bigger tragedy than the Vietnam war," she says. "I don't like the Vietnam war. There is not a fascist regime in the world that would be in power tomorrow if Jimmy Carter withdrew his support. The change has to be made by the American people. I see it as a task of mine."

Ortnow says, "I don't care for him, so whether that colors my analysis is hard to say. But I think that's what he's done in these cases: was one of self-seeking for publicity. He would invest himself with righteousness, ascribe nothing but the purest motives to himself. He will seethe to certain people, such quotes as, 'Mark, you're one of the most brilliant and would-be idealists I know' and 'I would not say 'charlatan,' but it's damn close to it.' Lane, incensed that Ortnow is given a forum, claims the man is bitter about their past association and knows nothing about him other than what he has read. 'I don't know anything about him,' says Ortnow. 'I have a problem with him is that he betrayed a client. When he did that I said I no longer

a Russian officer named 'Peter' back in 1945, says his commanding Russian superior. The report to the Army he drafted landed at [University and Brooklyn Law School, writing both in less than four years, putting briefly as a law assistant to established attorney before settling in New York, and then as a law professor. Some Soviet officials are represented among the ranks, Pietro Ickians and other individuals, but heaping to form the Reformist Civic Party with Ebanov. Roosevelt was chosen in 1960 as the party's candidate for the state senate. After 20 years, he is now again in favor of a P. Rican campaign. During the term he served as Kennedy's New York reformer by city managing manager, though he is simply say: he was Kennedy's New York campaign manager in 1960.

He recalls being a part of the first Russian officers in the South during the 60s,

posed quote by the late Bertrand Russell. This source for the quote is the cover of a reprint of "Rush to Judgment," his own book. The 1975 Dell paperback reprint at-

the CIA routinely "uses its media assets" to plant lies and rumors about him. Among them, Lane lists *Newsweek* magazine. Then, *Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, the CBS network and most major news outlets in the United States.

His first supposed brush with this conspiracy began in his hometown, Lane wrote. "Confidential Publishing Co."

At a child, Lane was interested in one thing: playing in line overnight to attend Woody Guthrie's funeral. He says, "I remember the house and playing Ping-Pong in the basement and playing Ping-Pong on the dining room table. His father read the *Forerunner* to him. I remember him talking to me in interview and took the children to the movies and the business were confirmed at 13, and then the children attended out-

He recalls being a part of the first election in the South during the 60s, an

Mark Lane And April Ferguson  
at the Dallas Public Library

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correct. This may lead him to accept many things at face value . . . When he gets a cause and really gets to believe in the cause, he will be more critical of those who do not do than he might be.

**Houston, attorney Percy Foreman,** attorney who encouraged James Earl Ray to plead guilty, considers Ray's involvement in the case an "effort to grab headlines, to fulfill his ego."

Law says recent announcements by the House Assassinations Committee, which says it will investigate the Kennedy assassination in the Kennedy murder, "vindicate" his own theories of a Mafia plot.

Law says he has been in a hospital in the jury room and in selection of a jury. In the jury room, he could say in judgment of people I didn't swear me time on Mr. Lane. I think," he could say the best of his life, being vindicated and the words "I am."

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