

Cult's Lawyers Have Long History of Controversial Cases

By PRANAV GUPTE

Each man has been involved for many years in some of the most sensational controversies in the United States. Each has been called a radical, and relished the reputation, but each has also been called a publicly coward, even an opportunist.

But they are different men by temperament. Mark Lane and Charles R. Garry, separated in age by almost a generation, are a feisty New Yorker, the other a reserved San Franciscan.

Now, because of what happened in a small jungle clearing thousands of miles from their homes, the two men have been thrown into possibly the most sensational controversy of their lives. If their own ac-
casion, it very nearly ended their lives.
For both Mr. Lane and Mr. Garry, both lawyers, the trip to Jonestown started

when Representative Leo J. Ryan of California, acting on complaints by constituents, insisted on investigating personally the conditions at the jungle commune of a religious sect called the People's Temple.

Helped Arrange for Trip

From correspondence between the Congressman and Mr. Lane that was made available yesterday, it is clear that neither lawyer looked forward to the trip, but when Mr. Ryan decided to go to Guyana, the two lawyers, who claimed to represent the cult's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, helped make the arrangements.

Each man's record, inside and outside of court, suggests resistance to "the establishment." Just over two decades ago, Mr. Garry, now 69 years old, was ordered to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee, took the Fifth Amendment and refused to say whether

he had ever been a member of the Communist Party. He now says he never was. "I am more than a liberal," Mr. Garry, a husky man of medium height, once said, "I am a radical."

This self-characterization is borne out in the cases he has handled. His most publicized clients have been Bobby Seale, Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver, leaders of the Black Panthers.

What Radicalized Mr. Garry?

Charles Garry, born Charles Garabedian, says: "I had to fight my way home from school every night through the anti-Armenian children of Fresno. I guess one of the things that makes me so incensed about what's happening to black people is because I relate it to my early life and the discrimination that I received by just being an ethnic Armenian."
But defending radicalism is not always lucrative, so it is accident cases and trial

work that have earned large sums for Mr. Garry's San Francisco law firm.

For the 51-year-old Mr. Lane, however, radicalism, albeit of another sort, has proven remunerative. He has been a leading proponent of the conspiracy theory on the death of John F. Kennedy, and his book, "Rush to Judgment," disputing the Warren Commission's confirmation of the lone-assassin theory, was a best-seller. Mr. Lane says he believes there was a right-wing conspiracy to kill the President.

Perhaps more than most radical lawyers, Mr. Lane tends to be identified with the philosophies of his clients. Representing the American Indians who faced riot, arson and conspiracy charges after an incident at Wounded Knee, S.D., five years ago, he declared that the trial would be a "major civil rights case for American Indians." But the Indians were convicted, and legal experts do not view the case as a major civil-rights test.

A book Mr. Lane wrote about veterans of the Vietnam War, "Conversations with Americans," was characterized by several reviewers as irresponsible. That charge was also leveled at him when, as a state Assemblyman from Manhattan's West Side in the early 1960's, Mr. Lane questioned the ethics of a former Speak-
er.