

Peoples Temple Paid Fee to Lane

**Lawyer Was to Launch
Offensive at 'Enemies'**

**BY HENRY WEINSTEIN
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Times Staff Writers

Attorney Mark Lane received more than \$10,000 in fees and expenses from the Peoples Temple this fall to launch a "counteroffensive" program against the group's purported enemies, according to documents made available to The Times.

The documents, presented by Temple members who worked with Lane, indicate that Lane was hired by Peoples Temple's leader, the Rev. Jim Jones, in the conviction that a vast governmental conspiracy existed to destroy him and his church.

The documents include a legal strategy memorandum written by Lane detailing plans for fighting the alleged conspiracy and a photostat of a \$10,000 check from the Temple to Lane. Lane had made public statements that he had not been paid by the Temple.

Last weekend Lane conceded in interviews with The Times he had received the \$10,000 check and said that the Temple owed him an additional \$2,800.

He would neither confirm nor deny
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receiving another \$7,500 in cash which Peoples Temple member Jean Brown said in an affidavit that she gave Lane on Nov. 9.

Brown said she gave Lane the money at a secret meeting at Los Angeles International Airport so the Temple could see in advance an unfavorable article that the National Enquirer planned to run. The article was never printed.

She said that Lane gave her an advance copy of the article to read at the airport, and that she took notes on it and then returned it to him.

"I never received any money to purchase an article, that's as far as I can go," Lane said.

But he added, "I don't see anything wrong" with such an act, and he admitted meeting with Peoples Temple members in Los Angeles at that time "about refuting or investigating statements that were made in various articles" including the National Enquirer article.

Lane alleged that the questions about his role as an adviser to Peoples Temple were minor compared to what he said was the government's failure to prevent the 915 deaths at Jonestown and the fact that \$7 million in Peoples Temple money is still ensconced in numbered bank accounts in banks in Switzerland and Panama City.

Lane said he had learned the numbers of those bank accounts from Terry Buford, a former high-ranking official of Peoples Temple, and that he had cabled those banks on Saturday and told them to freeze the accounts until further notice.

Lane said Ms. Buford had told him that all the accounts were in the name of a 77-year-old white Peoples Temple member who is thought to have died in Jonestown. Lane said that Ms. Buford, now in hiding, told him the elderly woman had signed the necessary papers to open the bank accounts without knowing what she was doing.

Lane said the woman had one heir, a middle-aged son. Lane said he and Ms. Buford would attempt to see that the money was distributed to needy Jonestown survivors.

In two long interviews, the 51-year-old attorney said he had tried to exercise a calming influence on the Temple this fall to ease the paranoia of Temple leader Jones.

Yet in the same interviews, Lane said he still believes an investigation should be conducted into whether there was a government conspiracy against Peoples Temple.

Lane said he saw nothing contradictory in asserting there was a government conspiracy against Peoples Temple.

Lane still supports an investigation into whether there was conspiracy.

ple while at the same time criticizing federal agencies for not reacting to unsettling charges about Jonestown.

Lane said he would propose the same offensive strategy today to Peoples Temple that he had presented in September.

That strategy was contained in a 10-page memo Lane wrote Sept. 27 entitled, "Counter-Offensive: Projected Offensive Program for the Peoples Temple." It also bears the words "Confidential—Attorney Client/Communication."

The memo advocated legal, public-relations, fund-raising and congressional "counteroffensives" in an attempt to shore up the sagging image of Peoples Temple. It recommended that a national campaign be coordinated from a "Jonestown Embassy" in Washington, D.C., to be established in a three-story building which Lane owns across the street from the Supreme Court building.

Lane's memo said, "There has been a coordinated campaign to destroy the Peoples Temple and to impugn the reputation of its leader Bishop Jim Jones." This was written only two weeks after Lane first heard about Peoples Temple.

The Lane memo charged that "among the suspect organizations" trying to destroy Jones and the Temple "are the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Post Office, the Federal Communications Commission and their agents and employees. It is apparent that various newspapers and free lance writers or reporters for newspapers have participated wittingly or unwittingly in a coordinated effort to destroy Bishop Jones and the Peoples Temple."

The recommended strategy included the filing of law-suits under the federal Freedom of Information Act in an attempt to demonstrate that there was a governmental conspiracy to destroy Jones, the Peoples Temple, and Jonestown, the church's agricultural mission in Guyana.

Lane quickly followed up on this memo. "It appears to me" that there has been "a deliberate effort in which American intelligence organizations have played a major part, a deliberate effort to destroy the Peoples Temple, to destroy Jim Jones and to destroy Jonestown," Lane told an Oct. 3 San Francisco news conference where he announced his plans to file the suits.

"I think (this suit) will be able to show millions and millions of dollars of damage inflicted by intelligence organizations against Peoples Temple and Jonestown and Jim Jones," he added.

However, numerous Freedom of Information Act requests had already been filed on behalf of the Temple by

San Francisco attorney Charles Garry in 1977 and 1978, and they did not reveal a conspiracy, Garry told The Times. He said most of the requests had been returned from the federal agencies saying that they had nothing in their files about Jones of the Temple.

Lane said he first learned about serious problems at Jonestown three weeks before Rep. Leo J. Ryan's ill-fated trip there. He said his information came from Ms. Buford, 26, who came to see him in New York after deciding to defect from the Peoples Temple. Ms. Buford had been one of the highest ranking members of the organization.

"She was afraid she would be killed. She felt there was one person in the entire world that she could turn to, a person who had spoken about a kind of openness that was required there (at Jonestown), and that was me," Lane said. "And then she gave me a great deal of information" including:

- Jonestown people were eating an inadequate diet of rice and gravy, even though Peoples Temple had \$7 million in foreign bank accounts and another \$3 million in Jones' house there.

- Jones had discovered that the soil at his agricultural mission was inadequate to grow sufficient food and contemplated uprooting the group and moving to the Soviet Union.

- The Temple had "hit squads" ready to conduct assassinations.

- There were brutal beatings of persons, including "a child molester" who was publicly beaten "with rubber clubs on his penis."

- Jones had staged rehearsals for a mass suicide and had threatened a mass suicide in October, 1977, that was stopped only by the international radio intervention of Huey Newton, Angela Davis and Dennis Banks, arranged by Garry.

- People could leave Jonestown only with Jones' permission.

- Jonestown members were not allowed contact with people in the outside world and could not read Marxist or Christian books or literature, even though Jones professed himself to be both a Marxist and a Christian.

- A Peoples Temple member had infiltrated the defectors group, the Human Freedom Center in Berkeley, and one of his alleged goals was to kill Ms. Buford.

- Jones had used Peoples Temple women to sexually compromise high Guyanese officials.

- Jones wanted to will the Peoples Temple money to the Soviet Union if he should die or if the organization should become extinct. But the Russian Embassy in Guyana told Jones he should leave the money to UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

- Jones was crushed, just crushed that a Socialist country would not "take the money," Lane said.

According to Lane, Jones told Ms. Buford, "They won't even take our money in a Socialist country. I don't understand, how do they view us? What are we doing wrong?"

Lane did not reveal these details to Rep. Ryan or others on the ill-fated trip although he did send Ryan a letter warning that his trip might be considered provocative by Jones.

Lane said he went on the trip to exert a calming influence on Jones. He said he did not think Jones was mentally disturbed when he first met him, but he conceded there were problems when he went to Jonestown. Among them:

- The Temple had a white elitist leadership, even though 80% of its members were black.

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LANE RECEIVED \$10,000 TEMPLE FEE

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Lane, however, was unable to recall not being told of his flight during the day and night. He said, "I don't know if it was a mistake or not, but I don't know if I was told to go to the Temple."

After the tragedy, Lane was criticized for not trying to halt the trip. He had a knowledge of dangerous conditions at Jonestown, some of which he revealed right after the trip. Lane's position is that everyone going on the trip already knew of possible dangers.

In fact, he said the trip was being made to investigate reports that people were being held there against their will.

He accused the some of the news people who made the trip of being "New York Times" style, who was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for his work on the Peoples Temple.

Lane said that everything I now know, I got from the Temple. He said that the Temple had been a government conspiracy against them, the Peoples Temple and Jonestown.

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The Federal Communications Commission had been involved with the Jonestown shortwave radio operation.

The United Nations and Emergency Agency had been involved with the shipment of medical supplies to Jonestown.

The Postal Service stopped for a time the flow of postal security checks to Jonestown.

On the other hand, he said the State Department had been headed warnings of Deborah Stanley, who had been in Jonestown and told her sister about conditions there. He said Richard McCoy of the State Department, who had been on her warnings.

In the weekend interviews, Lane continually lambasted government agencies for being unresponsive to complaints about Jonestown, but at the same time he would not discuss the possibility that there had been federal attempts to learn the Peoples Temple settlement there.

Then, said Lane, if he were hired by Peoples Temple to do he would recommend the same legal and public-relations strategy as that he did in the Sept. 27 "Counter-Offensive" memo.

For the public-relations counteroffensive, Lane recommended contacting several leftist publications to do in-depth articles on the Temple. The publications included Mother Jones, a San Francisco-based magazine which has won several awards for investigative reporting; in These Times, a weekly Socialist newspaper printed in Chicago, and The Guardian, a weekly Marxist newspaper published in New York.

Two different kinds of feature articles should be written about Peoples Temple to be placed in publications on the Left," Lane suggested. "One should deal with the campaign to destroy the Peoples Temple together with the work the Peoples Temple has done in opposition to the war in Vietnam and in supporting the black struggle in South Africa."

Lane also suggested contacting special-interest publications and those dealing with the elderly, Native Americans, health and health-care problems.

Finally, Lane added in the memo, "It is important for there to be a comprehensive film which could be seen throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean and elsewhere in the world which tells the Jonestown story." Lane said he had already "worked" with the finest French television documentary film maker and urged him to spend some time in Jonestown for the purpose of producing a film.

Lane told about his plan. He said his program was...

Lane's Job: 'Counteroffensive'

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which tells the whole story of Jonestown.

"I would suggest to the Peoples Temple that the Temple give all rights to French TV but arrange for itself to keep rights or sell or distribute in any fashion it wishes, the film in the U.S. and in the Caribbean countries.

"In addition we should concentrate upon Geraldo Rivera for a special report from Jonestown for ABC Television," Lane said. "We should meet with Jack Anderson and his aide who is a friend of mine, Les Whitten, who can run a story predicting that we will be filing action in the near future."

Lane said in the memo he felt it was particularly "important to create an appropriate and truthful image of the Peoples Temple among organizations on the left in the U.S. and among black organizations in the U.S. I have already relayed the facts about the Peoples Temple to Dick Gregory, to Ralph Abernathy and to various people and organizations on the left."

The attorney also urged a coordinated fund-raising campaign requesting governments throughout the world to distribute medicines to Jonestown. Again, he suggested the Temple's presumed appeal to the left as an integrated, progressive church could be exploited.

"I should think that if Socialist countries agree to contribute medicine to Americans in Guyana that it would be embarrassing to the U.S. government not to do likewise," he wrote. "Such a campaign should be called to the attention of Andrew Young," United States ambassador to the United Nations.

Lane told interviewers there was nothing sinister about his plan. He said the program was part of an attempt

to develop openness where there could be more contact between the Peoples Temple and the outside world. He asserted that all his actions were designed to break down "the fortress mentality" that existed at Jonestown and among Peoples Temple members in San Francisco.

However, as part of the public-relations counteroffensive this fall, Lane was highly critical of press treatment of the Temple.

At the Oct. 3 news conference he said, "I know that the National Enquirer was planning a vicious attack. I know what the attack was, I've talked to reporters involved, many of the reporters."

Last week, however, he told The Times that a negative 50-page article on the Temple by free-lance writer Gordon Lindsay for the National Enquirer was "accurate. And that article was never published because the publisher of the National Enquirer checked with the State Department and they said it was all untrue. And they knew it was true," he said.

This is the article that Jean Brown of Peoples Temple said Lane gave her to read in draft form on Nov. 9 at the Los Angeles International Airport.

At the same Oct. 3 news conference at which Lane announced his plans to file a massive Freedom of Information Act lawsuit on behalf of the Temple, Lane was asked, "What's the connection between your organization and the suit?"

He responded, "Our organization, the Citizens Commission on Inquiry, has conducted an independent inquiry into the charges—nobody's paid for this—an independent inquiry into the charges..."

Later in the news conference, he was asked, "Who fi-

nanced your investigation?"

He answered: "We paid for our own investigation as we have over the years paid for our own investigations of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King."

But, in fact, Peoples Temple paid for two trips Lane made to Guyana, trips to San Francisco, for the strategy memo he wrote and for other work.

Lane said he never filed the Freedom of Information Act suit he heralded at the October news conference because Peoples Temple officials "never gave me the material" needed.

Temple members prepared considerable material for Lane that he said he never received, including a list of what the Temple considered questionable incidents, such as attempted "assassinations," "arsons," and "media attacks," on them.

This included a list of "recommended investigation targets," the documents show, among them nine journalists, including Tim Retherman, a reporter for the San Francisco Examiner. Retherman was one of the persons who survived the attack at the Port Kaituma airstrip on Nov. 18, when nine persons died.

S.F. ANGRILY DENIES NBC REPORT ON CULT PROBE

A San Francisco city spokesman has angrily denied an NBC news report that city police started and stopped—without explanation—an investigation of alleged gun-running by the Peoples Temple sect.

NBC reported Friday night that police had received confidential information that officials of the sect "were arranging to ship large amounts of cash, explosives and guns to South America via Canada."

Mal Wax, press aide to slain Mayor George Moscone, called the report "an absolute outrageous lie."

EVEN IN DEATH

Jim Jones Still Haunts Them

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — They are the survivors of Jonestown, but they can never escape its horrors.

In death, Jim Jones still haunts them.

They are young and old, sad and lonely, penniless and homeless, men and women, blacks and whites.

They have barely the clothes on their backs, some not even a pair of shoes. They are tired and weary, thin and pale, lost and confused, sad and depressed.

Now they face a new crisis: what to do with their lives.

"I would say most of them, if they were given the opportunity, and if in a few weeks or months their lives began to come out and their surroundings improved, they might turn to just ending their lives," says Dr. James A. Baker, chief of psychology at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark.

Baker, a native of Guyana who has a special professional interest in religious cults, is here evaluating the mental state of the survivors. He said he came at his own expense. He has interviewed about one-fourth of the survivors, who number about 50 in all.

"The majority of them are depressed and are confused and they would like some direction in their lives," he said. "They really don't know where they're going, what they're going to do."

Their lives have been directed and controlled. To go back into a free society where they have to make their own decisions is very frightening.

By the Associated Press