

DON'T BE FOOLED BY MARK LANE

Mark Lane is an attorney and propagandist for the Liberty Lobby, the most notorious pro-Nazi organization in the United States.

"Former" Klansman David Duke first ran for president in 1988 with Liberty Lobby's Populist Party. In 1991, Liberty Lobby endorsed Duke's gubernatorial campaign.

In *Plausible Denial*, the book Cody's is promoting, Lane claims he has "never heard an anti-Semitic expression" from his client, Liberty Lobby founder Willis Carto.

The fact is that Carto has repeatedly made such statements, including those summarized in Paul Rauber's column on the reverse side of this leaflet. Extensive documentation of Carto's beliefs and organizational activities can be found in the following sources available at Cody's:

Blood in the Face: the Ku Klux Klan, Aryan Nations, Nazi Skinheads and the Rise of a New White Culture. By James Ridgeway.

Old Nazis, the New Right, and the Republican Party. By Russ Bellant.

Also, available at the Berkeley Public Library:

The Liberty Lobby and the American Right: Race, Conspiracy, and Culture. By Frank P. Mintz.

Lane's associations with Carto's Liberty Lobby go beyond a "civil libertarian's" lawyer-client relationship. Lane for a time co-edited "*Zionist Watch*," a Liberty Lobby-promoted newsletter. Lane's co-editor Victor Marchetti is a long-time contributor to Liberty Lobby's weekly "*Spotlight*" newspaper. Lane also appears regularly on Liberty Lobby's sponsored "Radio Free America" program. The introduction to *Plausible Denial* was written by Col. (ret.) L. Fletcher Prouty, a prominent Liberty Lobby activist.

As a cover story on David Duke in *Image* magazine (March 8, 1992) reports, "former" Klansmen and Nazis like Duke are attempting to improve their electoral chances by shedding their robes and swastikas.

Mark Lane's apologetics for the Liberty Lobby have the effect of increasing the credibility of this pro-Nazi organization.

CITYSIDE

STICKS & STONES

By Paul Rauber

Conspiracy of Dunces

Remember the scene in *JFK* where Kevin Costner reads the Warren Commission Report? While poor Sissy Spacek sulks outside the bedroom, Costner/Garrison bounces on the bed, paging through the

official report on the Kennedy assassination with increasing annoyance. "Ask the question!" he mutters. "Ask the question!"

Listeners to KPFA December 20 were yelling the same thing at their radios, as the station's conspiracy czar, Dennis Bernstein, interviewed

Mark Lane on the subject of his new book on the Kennedy assassination, *Plausible Denial*. At one point the conversation turned to Fletcher Prouty,

yet another conspiracy theorist who served as consultant to Oliver Stone and who also wrote the introduction to Lane's book.

"Let's be very clear," interjected Bernstein, "because we have a very astute audience here, Mark Lane,"

explain that Prouty had written a "very good book," originally published by Prentice-Hall and later reissued by Noon tide Press. Yet, he added, "This is the press that suggested that the Holocaust didn't happen."

(Noon tide Press is an imprint of the Liberty Lobby, an organization founded by one Willis Carto).

"Well, let me tell you about that," said Lane. "They have never, never said the Holocaust was a hoax. They have never said the Holocaust didn't happen."

Lane went on to characterize a recent court case in Los Angeles between Mel Merelstein, a Holocaust survivor, and Willis Carto and the Liberty Lobby. "In it Mr. Merelstein said that this is the organization which says the Holocaust is a hoax, that it never happened. The judge in the case, Superior Court Judge Stephen Lachs, who is also Jewish, listened to the evidence and then he ordered the lawyers for Mr. Merelstein to never, ever again say in court that any of these organizations ever said the Holocaust was a hoax or it didn't happen."

Astute listeners sat with bated breath waiting for Bernstein to ask the question. Who is Willis Carto? What is the Liberty Lobby? And what exactly is Mark Lane's connection to them? Alas, the listeners got no more satisfaction than Kevin Costner; the conversation wandered off into a discussion of George Bush.

For the record, Willis Carto is the most notorious anti-Semitic in the country, the Liberty Lobby the most notorious anti-Semitic organization, and Mark Lane their lawyer. Carto was exposed as early as 1966 by columnist Drew Pearson, who published a damning letter by Carto which said that "Hitler's defeat was the defeat of Europe. And of America. How could we have been so blind? The blame, it seems, must be laid at the door of the international Jews. It was their propaganda, lies, and demands which blinded the West to what Germany was doing.... If Satan himself, with all of his diabolical ingenuity at his command, had tried to create a permanent disintegration and force for the destruction of the nations, he could have done no better than to invent the Jews."

As for the Noon tide Press, its character can be judged from the contents of its catalogue: *The Six Million Reconsidered*, *The Testament of Adolf Hitler*, *Germany's Hitler* ("a portrait of a man dedicated to his people and the vision of the National Socialist philosophy, as well as a man who in private life showed a very human side"), and of course the classic anti-Semitic text, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

Willis Carto is a busy man. He founded the Populist Party, whose 1988 presidential candidate was Nazi David Duke. Carto also started a Costa Mesa, California-based organization called the Institute for Historical Review, which is dedicated to proving that the Holocaust never happened. In 1980, IHR offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone who could prove that Jews were gassed at Auschwitz. Holocaust survivor

Mel Merelstein took him up on the offer and submitted proof. IHR refused to pay, so Merelstein took it to court, eventually winning the \$50,000, plus \$40,000 more for pain and suffering. In the course of the trial, Willis Carto was deposed. "Certainly there were no Jews gassed at Auschwitz," he said, "because there were no gas chambers. There were no Jews gassed at any of the German—any of the camps in Germany."

Mark Lane's assertion that Judge Lachs ordered Merelstein's attorneys not to make the claim that Carto, IHR, et al. denied the Holocaust is contested by Merelstein's lawyer, Peter Bernstein, since the transcripts of the trial have not yet been released, the matter cannot be conclusively settled. The question appears to turn on IHR's Humpty-Dumpty game with the word "Holocaust." According to Mark Weber, associate editor of IHR's *Journal of Historical Review*, "If by the 'Holocaust' you mean the political persecution of Jews, some scattered killings, if you mean a cruel thing that happened, no one denies that. But if one says that the 'Holocaust' means the systematic extermination of six to eight million Jews in concentration camps, that's what we think there's not evidence for." That is, IHR doesn't deny that the "Holocaust" happened; they just deny that the word "Holocaust" means what people customarily use it to mean.

"Some people say Mark Lane is crazy," Bernstein intoned at the end of his softball interview. "Some people say he's a member of the Liberty Lobby. Some people say he's a perpetual liar. Other people think that his work is very solid and believable. We leave it up to you. We're here to give you the information, let you consider it, and make some of your own decisions."

Following the Lane interview, Bernstein spoke to Jeff Cohen of the media-watch organization Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting on another matter. Towards the end, Cohen tried to get in a word about Mark Lane.

"The question that you should ask Lane," Cohen said, "is, How can he defend the Liberty Lobby and how can he pretend that he doesn't know... Liberty Lobby's involved in a lot of these conspiracy theories, from a far-right, anti-Semitic viewpoint? How can Lane doesn't know that the Liberty Lobby is anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi? That's the question. There's so many people coming at these conspiracy theories from so many different directions. The issue that we've tried to point out is some people are driving ideological axes from the far right. When they attack the CIA, they're doing it in some ways because they think the CIA didn't fight communism tough enough."

Bernstein: "All right. Jeff, I'm sorry we're right against the clock. We did get into that a little bit earlier."

Cohen: "I just..." (fade out)

Bernstein: "Jeff Cohen, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, we're smack out of time."