

Liebeler kills faith in 'being human'

By Lawrence Olsen

If you attended what has been ordained, with boundless exaggeration, the Liebeler-Lane debate last week, a debate only in that it began with a resolution, you were confronted by a man who implicated an innocent audience. Mr. Liebeler's very rationalization — I am only human — has made us participate in the distortion, manipulation and complete refutation of the facts surrounding the Kennedy assassination. We have become de facto stockholders in the firm of Warren and Company. He expects us to swallow his garbled babble about national security, and so accept the glaring contradictions of the Warren Report as divine truth.

I sound harsh you say, unfair, unrealistic, uncompromising. I plead guilty on all counts. President Kennedy was a man I loved, respected, wished to emulate. He was a man who gave me hope for a species I am now coming to despise; he gave me pride in the very thing which Mr. Liebeler has to apologize for — being human.

Lulled into apathy

I, along with everyone else, read the true, the righteous, the evangelic word from on high as transcribed on the divine parchments of the U.S. Printing Office. And I, still with everyone else, became resolved, reassured and lulled into my stupor of apathy. But then I read those "scavengers," those desecrators of the great American Way, those pornographic pimps of sacrilegious exposes, and now I am alarmed, nay frightened, nay terrified. Not because their words are "shocking," but because their words may very well be true.

Consider their statements as true. What new Sodom or Gomorrah could this country be descending to? On what voyage into the irrational, amoral and sacrilegious distortion of truth, principles and ethics could we be embarking? I see doubt, suspicion and skepticism. And then I see a farce, an absurd continuation of those misgivings.

Mr. Liebeler came to dispel doubts and suspicions, and instead his unbelievable performance added fuel to the fire. We are told to believe that a clumsy technician destroyed four crucial frames of the \$500,000 Zapruder film; rather expensive bungling. We are told to accept the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle as one of the most accurate military weapons constructed — a rifle accredited by Italians with the loss of World War II. We are told that this rifle, with an unworkable sight and 20-year-old ammunition, hit a moving target 60 feet below. We are to assume that the Commission got to question 58 witnesses to the assassination who regarded the grassy knoll and

not the Book Depository as the point of origin of the shots.

The pristine bullet

Then we are given as irrefutable fact Commission exhibit #399; the pristine bullet. This bullet, we are told by Mr. Liebeler, hit the President's neck; passed through Governor Connolly, shattering his fifth right rib; "tumbled" out at sufficient velocity to fracture his wrist, but entered backward, correcting previous damage to the bullet; proceeded into his thigh; fell out onto a stretcher; and was discovered there shortly before Parkland doctors announced that it was still lodged in the Governor's thigh. This pristine bullet, by the way, is the only evidence which relates the Mannlicher-Carcano to the assassination. For despite what Mr. Liebeler would like us to believe the fragments found in Governor Connolly could not be identified. But this is only consistent with the whole absurd argument. In other words we are expected by Mr. Liebeler to be that gullible, senile, irrational, senseless, obtuse, asinine — the kind of person, in other words, which Mr. Liebeler excuses himself for being. And if we accept Mr. Liebeler's "proof," we can take our choice of adjectives.

Wesley Liebeler's admitted membership in the human flock, then, is a discouragingly accurate indictment of himself. The one inherent trait which distinguishes man from the higher primates is his unerring ability to rationalize. The qualities intrinsic to "homo erectus" — cowardice, stupidity, greed — are at the same time common to all species of this earth. But only homo sapiens, the most myopic and incredible of all, possess the ability to reject, deny and negate, with such unerring certainty, the one quality which is supposed to make him the highest of all creations — intelligence. Mr. Liebeler was not the exception to the rule, rather the rule itself. There is one unfortunate thing about Mr. Liebeler's admission to membership in the exclusive club of humanity — it destroys what little regard we might possess for ourselves.

1984?

On the other hand, if we are not insane enough to accept the Warren Report and the Liebeler defense of it, we are commanded out of respect for the flag, and patriotism to accept it because of "national security." I did not know that the demand for truth is synonymous with treason. But if that be the case, this country has arrived at a dangerous precipice. I for one demand truth, not platitudes extolling false patriotism. This national security is in greater danger from those who want the pleasant and melodic rather than the truth. 1984 may be less than 17 years away.

Hal Verb asked me to send this news clipping to you. The reporter cuts
Liebeler to pieces.