

Anthony Howard, London Observer  
(complete story filed Books, Epstein)

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#### LANE'S VISIT

Even in the offices of the normally suspicious New Statesman there was, as I recall it, a distinct reluctance to question the seemingly definitive official explanation of what had occurred. I can vividly remember a visit to the New Statesman made that summer by Mark Lane, the indefatigable campaigner on the subject of the assassination who has his own book, "Rush to Judgment," coming out in America next week.

Lane's avowed purpose was to try to persuade us not to accept uncritically the commission's findings. We listened to him for an hour and more but when eventually he had left collectively shook our heads. What we had heard, we decided, was at best fantastic and at worst neurotic.

Would we, I now wonder, have thought that if we had known then what today, two years later, is in the public domain? That, for example, the commission itself split down the middle, central and vitally important, it wavered, shot and That ce