

Lane

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COVER →

Lawyer Stops Here In His Defense

CITRON

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By Ron Fimrite

A lawyer with the thankless job of defending the memory of Lee Harvey Oswald arrived here yesterday for speaking engagements on behalf of his dead client.

The case against the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy is "extremely weak," said Mark Lane, a Harlem civil rights attorney and former New York State Assemblyman. "And at the time he (Oswald) was killed, there was no case at all."

Lane has been retained by Oswald's mother, Marguerite Oswald, to defend her son before the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren which is investigating the facts of the assassination and the subsequent shooting of Oswald.

COURT

He will receive no fee. And since the Warren Commission has ruled that he cannot appear before them, he will not—for the moment, anyway—get his day in court.

Lane has filed a brief with the Commission, protesting that Oswald, who was shot down by Jack Ruby in the Dallas Courthouse, has been denied the Constitutional right of presumption of innocence.

He has also charged that the dead man's wife, Marina, was "brainwashed" for nine weeks by Secret Service agents before she told the Commission she thought her husband was guilty of shooting the President.

BRAINWASHING

"Here is a 22-year-old girl who doesn't speak English," he said yesterday, "and who was questioned by the FBI and the Secret Service every day for nine weeks. . . . That seems to me a perfect definition of brainwashing."

Lane maintains that the FBI "is not gathering evidence" which might indicate that Oswald was not the assassin "when they know it's there."

His own investigation, he said, has led him to be "cer-

tain that he (Oswald) could not have been involved alone . . . And I have very serious doubts he was involved in terms of actually pulling the trigger."

STANDARDS

The Warren Commission, he said, "is functioning as judge, jury, prosecutor and defense attorney . . . The Chief Justice, for whom I have the greatest respect, is applying different standards to this case than he would to any case heard before the Supreme Court."

In his search for "the truth," Lane said, he will probably seek other legal avenues—such as a suit against the city of Dallas for false arrest or wrongful death.

In the meantime, he will speak out for his cause—tonight at 8:30 p. m. in California Hall, Polk and Turk streets, at a meeting chaired by attorney Vincent Hallinan and sponsored by the National Guardian, a New York weekly newspaper.

On Monday he will speak at noon in the University of California's Pauley Ballroom, under the sponsorship of the W.E.B. DuBois Club.