

Peril in Dallas

For JFK Film

By Donald Warman

Two San Franciscans who went to Dallas to make a film about events surrounding the Kennedy assassination had to play hide-and-seek with the Dallas police to get the job done, they told *The Chronicle* yesterday.

Hours after the filming began, they said, policemen warned them "it might be dangerous" if they didn't get out of town.

Richard Stark, 24, and Paul-Michel Mielche, 28, were among sponsors of a documentary movie called "Rush To Judgment," based on writer Mark Lane's question-raising new book of that name.

The film will support Lane's contention that the Warren Report on President John F. Kennedy's death was incomplete and misleading, and that a small mountain of vital testimony was ignored.

EYEWITNESSES

Stark, a co-director of the movie, and Mielche, the crew's sound technician, said that they and two colleagues located 26 eyewitnesses whose accounts were strikingly similar and widely at variance with the official version.

They filmed in Dallas, usually in semi-secrecy, for three weeks during March and April of this year.

"On our second night in Dallas," Mielche said, "some policemen came to our motel and told us in a polite way, that it might be dangerous to go on with the film."

"We got the impression that they were more concerned about our footage on the death of Tippit (Police

Officer J. D. Tippit, reportedly a second victim of Lee Harvey Oswald) than in the Kennedy shooting."

MOVED

They and the other filmmakers, Emile de Antonio and Robert Primes, "took the hint" and moved surreptitiously to a motel in nearby Arlington, Tex., while they

tracked down witnesses Lane had quoted in his book.

Most were reluctant to be filmed and taped, Stark said. Some told the crew later that they had had telephone warnings "not to talk to that film bunch any more."

But the movie men, offering the witnesses \$100 apiece for their appearances, set up



RICHARD STARK AND PAUL-MICHEL MIELCHE
A story of police harassment

"secret" interviews with some who ignored the warnings, the origin of which the crew never ascertained.

Then, after three weeks at the Arlington base of operations, they said, a motel neighbor warned them:

"SOMEONE"

"There's someone around here been looking for you."

Asked who "someone" might be, the tipster said:

"I don't know, but they're out front right now."

The movie men packed their film and gear and drove away from the motel by a back exit. They kept driving till they reached New Orleans.

Stark and Mielche said they think the visitors may have been plainclothesmen who intended to confiscate the dozens of reels of film they had made.

Mielche, a co-owner of Cosmopolitan Films Co. here, and Stark, who had been working for the British-based Russell Foundation, joined in Lane's film venture "out of conviction," they said.

INVESTIGATION

Lane's book, the result of a lengthy personal investigation in Dallas, contends that the shots which killed Kennedy probably came from a grassy knoll near Dallas' downtown Main Street Underpass and not from the nearby Texas Book Depository building, where official probes said Oswald was lying in wait for the presidential cavalcade.

It further contends—and Stark says he has footage of witnesses on the point—that it was unlikely that Oswald could have killed Officer Tippit. Lane's witnesses said Oswald's slayer, Jack Ruby, was on friendly terms with Tippit.

Stark said the film, expected to run to almost three hours, will probably be completed next month.