

### The Crackpot and the Evidence

There seemed to be something absurd about the announcement that there would be a special talk by attorney Mark Lane at the Cafe AuGoGo this month on "Who Killed Kennedy?"—Lane has been independently investigating the assassination—and the apparent absurdity was almost overshadowed by the irony that the regular attraction at the AuGoGo this particular week was Vaughn Meader.

My prejudice was met with allegations—based on documentation Lane presented to the Warren Commission (his testimony was classified as top secret and by discussing it publicly he has been violating the espionage law)—such as the following:

- The police description of Lee Harvey Oswald on November 22nd for the shooting of officer J. D. Tippett went out at 12:43 P.M.; Tippett was shot at 1:18.

- The rifle with which Oswald was supposed to have shot Kennedy was originally identified as a German mauser, 7.65 caliber. When it was discovered that Oswald had purchased an Italian carbine, 6.5 caliber, the story changed. The rifle, now in possession of the Warren Commission, clearly bears the legend: "MADE IN ITALY, 6.5 caliber."

- Not one of the 24 points on which the Dallas district attorney said he had an air-tight case against Oswald remains the same. Example: the D.A. had said that Darryl Click was the cabdriver who had driven Oswald home after the President was shot. There never was a cabdriver in Dallas named Darryl Click. The cabdriver is now named William Waley.

- The Dallas FBI chief said the paraffin test proved Oswald had gunpowder on his hands and face, but the test (which can only reveal the presence of nitrates) actually showed that Oswald did *not* have nitrates on his face, only on his hands. There were traces of nitrate on both hands of many employees of the Texas School Book Depository because they had been moving inventory on freshly-painted plywood boards.

- Louise Markham, a witness to the shooting of officer Tippett, described his assailant as short, heavy, with somewhat bushy hair. The police never asked her for a description—although she did tell them that the man was wearing a light grey jacket—but they arrested Oswald, who was wearing a dark brown shirt, and had been described in the police bulletin as tall, slender, with thin, receding hair. The Dallas police description was claimed to be based on Oswald's absence from a roll call of book depository employees—but there never was a roll call, and if there had been, at least three other employees would also have been missing.

- Oswald had not sought the job at the depository; it was offered to him through his landlady, Mrs. Payne. This is a paradox, since after the scandal of subversion in textbooks there, the company was highly security-minded, and Oswald's defection to Russia had gotten much local publicity. Moreover, the route of the Kennedy procession was changed (to go in front of the depository) only at the last minute by the Secret Service upon the advice of the local police and the FBI.

- Bill Markham, the witness' son (his arrest is referred to in this issue of the *Realist* in Harold Feldman's article), jumped, fell or was pushed from a bathroom on a high floor of the prison building, the only one which has no bars on the window.

- Warren Reynolds, a parking-lot owner who saw a man fitting Mrs. Markham's description running with a pistol in his hand immediately after Tippett was shot, later was himself shot and left for dead. He lived—and identified the man who shot him. The charges against this man were dismissed because he had an

alibi: at the time of the shooting, he was with his girlfriend (a stripper at Jack Ruby's night club). The man has since disappeared from Dallas. The girlfriend was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge. In jail, she ostensibly committed suicide, by hanging herself.

- The Dallas doctors who treated the dying President said that the bullet-hole in his throat was an entrance wound. It would have been physically impossible for this to have been caused by a rifle from the depository since the Kennedy car had already passed the building when he was shot. FBI-briefed, *Life* magazine in

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an article titled "An End to Nagging Rumors" in its December 6th issue, asserted that the President was looking backward at the moment he was shot. However, in the November 29th issue of *Life*, those still-photos (from the motion-picture film they had paid so much money for) showed that Kennedy was looking *forward*, and *Life's* own caption verified this fact.

- If the President had to be shot from the back in order for the bullet to have come from the depository, then the doctors would then have to confess error and say now that the opening in Kennedy's throat was an exit wound. On the basis of a visit by two Secret Service agents to the hospital, the doctors did indeed change their minds. They did so on the basis of (1) an autopsy which they couldn't see because it would violate national security; and (2) the history of the case—namely, that Oswald was behind Kennedy, therefore it *had* to be an exit wound. *Newsweek* interviewed Dr. Perry—who had performed the tracheotomy on Kennedy, inserting a tube into his throat so that the blood wouldn't interfere with his breathing—and he said that there was much more he wanted to tell them, but he couldn't. *Newsweek* suppressed the suppression.

Mark Lane told me later that his photostat-documents—which were accepted as valid when he testified before the Warren Commission—had been temporarily lifted from the Dallas district attorney's office by someone whose motivation was a certainty that Fidel Castro had told Lee Harvey Oswald to kill President Kennedy and that this truth would never reach the public because Chief Justice Earl Warren is a Communist.