

Assassination Film on British TV

London

A marathon BBC television broadcast intended to point up the mysteries of President Kennedy's death ended early this morning with a split verdict by a "jury" of two legal authorities and an ill-tempered wrangle on the part of everybody else.

The focus of the program was the world premiere of "Rush to Judgment," a film based on the best-selling book by American attorney Mark Lane, who appeared on the program in an angry confrontation with two members of the Warren Commission staff.

In the end, a detached verdict was expected from Professor Alexander Bickel of Yale Law School and Lord Devlin, an eminent British jurist.

Bickel said he still felt that confused evidence over the number of bullets involved in the assassination justified a reopening of the case by a small, full-time official body.

HISTORY

But Lord Devlin said the public interest had already been served by the Commission findings. "The rest can

wait for history," he said, adding quietly, "even a dead President is entitled to some bodily peace."

Both Bickel and Lord Devlin agreed that Lane had developed no real evidence of a conspiracy between Dallas police, Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald.

The program included excerpts from Lane's film dealing with Oswald's marksmanship, and with the question of how a single bullet passed through Mr. Kennedy's throat and into Texas Governor John Connally's back, wrist and thigh, emerging almost intact.

MEMBERS

Two former staff members of the Warren Commission flew to London to appear on the program. David Belin rested on the present evidence.

But Arlen Specter, now District Attorney of Philadelphia, made the interesting admission that the one-bullet conclusion was "not indispensable" to the Warren Commission case.

There could have been an earlier shot fired by Oswald, meaning the Governor Connally could have been struck by a second shot, he said.

BBC had constructed a 300-foot model of the plaza in which the President was killed, and used blown-up photographs of the disputed single bullet as a somewhat morbid backdrop for the debate.

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