

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : USSS
RECORD NUMBER : 179-40006-10302

RECORDS SERIES :
DOCUMENT 17: FBI REPORTS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM :
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 08/31/71
PAGES : 49

SUBJECTS :
LANE, MARK

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : REFERRED
CURRENT STATUS : P
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : / /

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
P. 1-48 PLUS 1 UNNUMBERED; BOX F10

[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

SECRET

NO 100-17689 - nmb

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence and Employment

MARK LANE has not been determined to be established at any permanent residence during the past two years, but has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad, involving himself in anti-war and anti-Government activities. LANE is an author and lawyer by profession. His last known permanent address was 521 Dumaine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

B. Description

Name	MARK LANE
Alias	Robert Blake
Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	2/24/27, Bronx, New York
Height	6'0"
Weight	180
Build	Medium
Complexion	Olive
Eyes	Brown
Occupation	Attorney, author, lecturer
SSAN	073-22-4908
Passport no.	E-067352
Characteristics	Wears dark hornrimmed glasses, last known to wear a beard.

II. ANTI-WAR AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

In March and April, 1968, MARK LANE was in New Orleans, Louisiana, to assist New Orleans District Attorney JIM GARRISON in GARRISON's prosecution of New Orleans businessman CLAY SHAW for conspiracy in the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY in November, 1963. While in New Orleans, LANE met on several occasions with BOB HEAD and

SECRET

SECRET

NO 100-17689 - nmb

DARLENE FIFE, who originated and published the "NOLA Express," a militant underground New Orleans newspaper. LANE reportedly told FIFE that he is a very close friend of District Attorney GARRISON, and was also to assist DARLENE FIFE in covering the trial in New Orleans for the "National Guardian" newspaper of New York City.

LANE reportedly told FIFE that the right-wing element in New Orleans is against District Attorney GARRISON's action against CLAY SHAW, and that he would be willing to accept support from the New Left movement in the New Orleans area.

NO T-1
March 19, 1968

In Volume 1, Number 1, of the "NOLA Express," dated April, 1968, the following interview with MARK LANE took place and is set forth below in its entirety:

SECRET

SECRET

Interview with Mark Lane, March 12, 1968

Darlene Fife - What are Garrison's objectives?

Mark Lane - Garrison has limited objectives. He wants the American people to know who killed the president, he wants to arrest everyone in his jurisdiction, although he believes no one will go to jail, and he wants the ramifications to be sufficiently great so that the United States government will have to dissolve the Central Intelligence Agency and find three new letters for the organization that will be formed. He has no illusions about permanent change.

F - Say Garrison gets all his convictions and it turns out that high men in the CIA are involved and Johnson flees the country to join the American deserters in Sweden; what do you think is going to happen? Certainly there's some kind of "power vacuum" left.

L - Well we are presently residing in a totalitarian state and the fact that there might be a power vacuum doesn't frighten me. That would be a massive improvement over what we have at the present time. I don't see President Johnson fleeing to Sweden. I don't think that will be the result and I don't think that what takes place in New Orleans in terms of the trial will have that kind of shocking effect upon the American people. Firstly because they probably won't even know about it since they have to rely upon the media for the facts and the media has not proved to be too reliable in this area for the last 4½ years. They may hear about a conviction or two and Walter Cronkite in stentorian tones will make some reference to Southern justice. So I think that what is taking place here will never be accurately reported just as what has been taking place here for more than the last year has been distorted by NBC, CBS, New York Times, Time magazine and most of all Newsweek, the liberal publication. And I think that one cannot expect that the facts which are presented at the Shaw trial will be genuinely broadcast around the country.

F - Explain to me what Garrison is talking about when he talks about an operational level, an intermediate level, and then the sponsor level.

SECRET

SECRET

L - I've recently interviewed a person closely associated with the CIA for a number of years. I've talked with him about the assassination of the president and he said it fits into the classic pattern of program for "executive action" and which any intelligence agency in the United States or abroad would have used to bring about the operation. He says the footprints of an intelligence operation are all over Dealey Plaza. He describes it as at one end of the chart there is a sponsor; that is the man or organization who wants the job done. At the other end of the chart is the target; the target is the objective the sponsor wants to achieve. It may be the blowing up of a bridge or the sabotaging of a ship or assassinating a head of state. It may be going into an embassy and removing documents, photographing them and returning them. In the latter case the objective is never to let anyone know the job has been planned or has been done. However when it comes to blowing up a bridge or killing a president, it is of course impossible to prevent knowledge that the job has been done and then it is most important to prevent anyone from knowing who the real sponsor is. In order to see to it that the information is not divulged first of all the chain of command each person just knows the person above him and below him. The chain can be broken at any time by the removal, they call it "permanent termination" of anyone in the chain. I asked him what was meant by that and he said you kill him. There are a series of false sponsors that are also established so that in case anyone is curious, which the Warren Commission was not, they will find false leads. So if the Commission had examined the evidence closely and found there was a conspiracy and were they curious enough to find out who might have been behind the conspiracy they would have uncovered many false leads which were scattered around Dealey Plaza like leaves on an autumn day. For example they would have found out that Jack Ruby was associated with organized crime. There would have been indications that Castro was involved in the assassination. For instance Oswald was planning possibly to go to Cuba after the assassination. There are a whole host of clues that point in various directions - the extreme right, extreme left, organized crime. These are just three examples of the clues that were developed but it never got that far because the Commission being a liberal body decided that it had no concern with the truth and that it would compromise. True liberalism. The Commission decided it would compromise because those who planned the assassination envisioned planes taking off the next morning to bomb China or Cuba or Russia or hopefully all three. The President didn't want that to happen and the Commission was established to conceal the facts and in concealing the facts, they also concealed any evidence of a conspiracy including the conspiracy the CIA wanted them to fall upon - the evidence of a conspiracy of the left involving foreign governments.

F - The CIA was the sponsor and Kennedy was the target, and all the people Garrison is investigating like Shaw and Ferris were in the intermediate level?

L - Yes.

F - Does Garrison have an inside view yet? Has anyone confessed?

SECRET

SECRET

NOLA EXPRESS

150

Vol. 1 #1

APRIL 1964

(Mark Lane Interview continued from page 9)

L - No one has confessed and I don't think you can expect many confessions in this case because if you're convicted without confessing all you can get in a conspiracy to kill the president is 20 years and you don't serve 20 years, you may just serve 1/3 of that. And if you confessed you'd probably be "permanently terminated" by the sponsor.

F - What kind of support has Garrison received from the press or say a "movement"?

L - Well almost none from the press as you know. The press is almost unanimous. NBC had a historically unprecedented program which was the trial of Clay Shaw. It took place on television before it took place in real life. Shaw was found not guilty and Garrison was found guilty. CBS did four, 1-hour programs on the Warren Report defending the Report from its critics and at one point Walter Cronkite said "Garrison has made many charges but he hasn't proven any of them in court." In fact Garrison has made two charges, one against Dean Andrews for perjury in a case closely related to the assassination investigation and the other against Clay Shaw. It's true he hasn't proven the guilt of Shaw because for over a year now Shaw has been doing everything to prevent that case from coming to trial. About Dean Andrews - 3 days after Cronkite said Garrison had not proven anything in court, Dean Andrews was convicted of perjury. I watched television the next night to see how Cronkite was going to explain this but he never did. The only movement which has supported Garrison has been the Citizens Committee of Inquiry on various college campuses and cities which were established early after the assassination for the purpose of making the facts known. Of course RAMPARTS magazine has been very helpful in terms of publishing new material but one of the things that dismays me, that while one would expect attacks from the right, one would expect the left to have a more sophisticated view, a knowledgeable view of what takes place in this society. One would expect the left to support Garrison but the left seem to be sitting back watching, waiting very cautiously. That's not the position the left should be taking at the present time it seems to me. One of the problems is the atmosphere around to convince us that Garrison is some kind of nut. One listens long enough and tends to believe it and gives that as an excuse for not participating. I think that's unforgiveable.

SECRET

NO 100-17689

F - I think one of the problems is that even assuming everything Garrison says is true, what happens is that as you say you have to get three new letters for the agency and everything is the same again. There have been heads of states assassinated in other countries and nothing changes. Why should it be different here?

L - Well that's a very cynical view by those who are sitting back and taking no position right now and saying that the truth is not sufficient, the truth must do that which we want it to do; the abstract truth is not sufficient. But I think things will change - comes the conclusion that the CIA, an agency of the federal govt, killed President Kennedy, things can never again be exactly the same in America. I don't think a revolution will take place the next day. I don't think there'll be rioting in the streets either, but I think there'll be a change in America and a healthy change.

F - I know your position on the war in Vietnam. What is Garrison's view on the war?

L - I spoke at the La. Polytechnic Institute about 4 months ago. Garrison had been there just a year ago, that was before his investigation began, and they asked if he'd go back to discuss the assassination and I said I'd raise the issue with him. I saw him the next day and told him I was there. He said "I was there a year ago. Did they tell you." I said yes they told me. He said "Did they tell you what I talked about there." I said no. He said "I was a lieutenant colonel in the active reserve. I spoke in favor of the war in Vietnam." He blushed. He said that in his 40's when he came across the Warren Commission report and the contradictions and he began his investigation, he realized for the first time that honorable men had issued this false report. It brought a great change in his thinking. He is now wholeheartedly against the war in Vietnam and has resigned as a lieutenant colonel in the active reserve and he believes in the very near future there will be an American Dienbienphu. He says the American people probably don't realize that those in this country and outside this country who oppose our policy in Vietnam are the only ones today defending Americas freedom.

NOLA EXPRESS c/o SDS-DRU
Box 2493, New Orleans La 70116

3rd class / return requested

7