

News broadcasts on January 15, 1964, stated that Mark Lane, New York Attorney, has been retained by the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald to represent Oswald before the committee appointed by President Johnson to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mark Lane is an attorney-at-law who resides at 164 West 79th Street, New York City, and maintains offices in Room 1001, 654 Madison Avenue, New York City. He was born in New York City on February 24, 1927.

He was inducted into the U. S. Army on May 1, 1945, and honorably discharged as a Private First Class on November 12, 1946.

Lane was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1960 and in May, 1962, was defeated in an attempt to secure the nomination as candidate for U. S. Congress from the 19th Congressional District of New York.

Lane had reportedly been married twice, his first marriage being annulled on a charge of fraud on Lane's part and the second marriage ending in divorce. It was reportedly general knowledge in local New York political circles that Mark Lane and a young single girl had maintained an intimate sexual relationship during 1960 and 1961 and had lived together.

The Office of the District Attorney of Queens County, New York, reportedly conducted an investigation of Mark Lane in 1962 for alleged sodomy. The District Attorney's office reportedly has signed statements by two girls along with an obscene photograph of Lane plus handwritten instructions by Lane relating to perverted sexual acts of a sadistic and masochistic nature performed by the girls on the person of Mark Lane.

Lane has publicly stated he is making a speaking tour on behalf of the "National Guardian." The "National Guardian" is known as a "left-wing," New York City weekly newspaper. This newspaper has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) and on page 193 of the Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications of HCUA it is stated that the "National Guardian," although denying any affiliation with the Communist Party, "has manifested itself from the beginning as a virtual official propaganda arm of

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Soviet Russia." The "National Guardian" reportedly contracted with Town Hall, New York City, to use its meeting hall for a gathering on February 18, 1964, which would feature Mark Lane and Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald. The Town Hall broke this contract and the "National Guardian," is threatening suit. According to the January 23, 1964, issue of "National Guardian," Lane will speak concerning the Oswald matter in Southern California, Chicago and in Detroit, with these addresses sponsored by "Friends of the Guardian."

The May 27, 1953, issue of the "Daily Worker" stated that the National Lawyers' Guild (NLG) held an election of officers on May 26, 1953, and that Mark Lane was elected an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the NLG. The "Daily Worker" was an east coast communist newspaper which is no longer being published.

On May 17, 1961, Lane reportedly spoke at a membership meeting of the NLG. A report of the HCUA has described the NLG as the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party.

On October 21, 1962, Lane reportedly addressed a meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in New York City and strongly supported Cuba while condemning U. S. policy with regard to Cuba. The HCUA has described the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee as operating as a communist front.

Lane also reportedly addressed a meeting sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights in Chicago on October 21, 1962, and called for the abolition of HCUA. The avowed purpose of the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights, organized in October, 1960, with the support of Communist Party officials is to seek the abolition of the HCUA.

Lane also reportedly spoke at rallies sponsored by the New York Council to Abolish the HCUA on April 21, 1961, and December 6, 1961. The December 18, 1961, edition of "The Militant" reported that at the December 6, 1961, rally Lane spoke and said that his first official action during the coming session of the New York State Legislature would be to introduce a resolution to persuade Congress to abolish the HCUA. "The Militant" is a weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers Party, which has been described by the Attorney General as a subversive publication.

Members of the Communist Party reportedly lent assistance to Lane in his unsuccessful political campaign in 1962 to be elected to the U. S. Congress.

Lane reportedly shared a speaking platform on November 6, 1961, at McMillan Theater, Columbia University, New York City, with Benjamin J. Davis, National Secretary of the Communist Party, in connection with a rally to protest the ban by Columbia University against the appearance of several previously scheduled communist speakers.

According to the June 9, 1961, "New York Times," page 31, Mark Lane was arrested on June 8, 1961, at Jackson, Mississippi, as a member of the "Freedom Riders" apprehended in that city.

The April 3, 1962, edition of the "New York Times," on page four, reported that Lane had been fined \$415 in New York City on April 2, 1962, as a "scofflaw," for ignoring numerous traffic tickets.

The December, 1963, issue of "National Guardian" which has been cited by the HCUA as having manifested itself as a virtual official propaganda arm of Soviet Russia, contains Lane's defense brief for Lee Harvey Oswald on pages five, eight and nine.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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September 10, 1964

MEMORANDUM TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

We have been somewhat concerned about our procedures in requesting security name checks, particularly from files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for appointees to the federal service. Such procedures are an essential part of any effective security program.

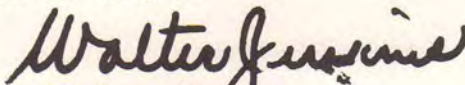
In most instances it would seem desirable to request such checks prior to serious consideration being given an individual, and most certainly before a firm commitment is made to the interested party or parties. Not only should this be observed in the respective Departments and Agencies, but also in instances in which recommendations for appointments are made by Departments or Agencies to the White House.

These procedures can prevent considerable embarrassment both to the government and to the potential employee himself. Irreparable harm can be done to a person's reputation in instances where publicity is given to his possible appointment to a government position, yet subsequent security checks result in a decision to suspend action on the appointment.

It would be unfortunate if undesirable individuals were put on the federal payroll simply because sufficient precautions were not taken prior to their appointment. This is merely sound business sense and should not be construed as an unwarranted invasion of privacy or violation of any person's constitutional rights.

Common sense must naturally be exercised in the administration of name check requests. For example, high-ranking military personnel who have possessed top-ranking clearance normally would not require security checks prior to appointment in the civilian service.

It would be desirable for all Departments to examine their procedures in the above regard. This practice is in effect at the White House now and will be strictly adhered to in the future.



Walter Jenkins
Special Assistant
to the President