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Subject: Today's Associated Press Story on ARRB Release of FBI Documents
AP 2-JUL-1996 9:20 EDT REF:151Copyright 1996. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. All rights reserved. THE INFORMATION contained in the AP news report may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or otherwise distributed without the prior written authority of The Associated Press. By MELISSA B. ROBINSON Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON (AP) - College and university officials were tapped by the FBI in the early 1960s for information on Mark Lane, a lawyer retained by Lee Harvey Oswald's mother to clear her son's name, according to records released Tuesday. The records are among a batch of 141 FBI documents and 33 CIA documents released by the Assassination Records Review Board, which is compiling a public record of President Kennedy's assassination. Some of the information has previously been released. The FBI documents offer a glimpse of the bureau's extensive efforts to track Lane's public appearances in 1964, during the Warren Commission's investigation of the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination. The bureau, which served as the commission's investigatory arm, relied on its own agents and a far-flung network of contacts to report back on speeches, lectures and debates involving Lane, a critic of the commission who had represented Marguerite Oswald, records showed. It was unclear from the records whether the FBI was acting on its own or at the commission's behest. Lane, who made numerous appearances on television, radio and college campuses, wanted to represent the deceased Oswald at the commission's hearings but was turned down. He laid out a case for Oswald's defense in his 1966 book, "Rush to Judgment." Lane did not immediately return a message left at his law office in Washington, D.C., Monday. His home telephone number is unpublished. Jennifer Spencer, an FBI spokeswoman, said the bureau had no comment. In some cases, such as an Oct. 9, 1964, debate between Lane and attorney Melvin Belli in San Francisco, the FBI dispatched its own agents to attend the event and report back, records showed. About 1,500 people attended the debate, which was billed "Is Oswald the Lone Assassin of the President?" "He (Lane) stated that the Warren Commission believed only what it wanted to believe," the bureau's San Francisco office reported to then FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. The commission concluded that Oswald acted alone to assassinate Kennedy. But the FBI was also concerned with obscure gatherings, records showed. In one report to Hoover, dated Feb. 5, 1964, a bureau agent gave a detailed account of a meeting of 13 people in Milwaukee, Wis., organized by a group known as Citizens for Peace and Disarmament. The discussion included future plans for an area appearance by Lane. Directory assistance had no listing for the group in the Milwaukee area. In other cases, the FBI relied on college and university officials, including such high-ranking administrators as Robert E. Hill, who was then assistant dean of Brown University in Providence, R.I., records showed. Lane spoke at Brown on May 4, 1964. In an interview with an FBI agent, Record

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