

P **OLICE**, that Oswald said: "Well, it's all over now," when he was arrested. But no witness in the theater ever testified that he made that remark. And even the police seemed confused on the point; one Dallas officer said his actual words were, "This is it." Either way, this hardly constitutes an admission that he had assassinated the President and shot Officer Tippit.

PLAYBOY: What actually happened at the theater?

LANE: The circumstances of Oswald's arrest are still a bit cloudy. Most of the witnesses can't remember Oswald saying anything at all, except protesting "police brutality" and charging he had been struck with a shotgun and beaten by several police officers simultaneously. But as far as I'm concerned, there is no convincing proof that Oswald was anything other than a *spectator* at the President's assassination—and unless it can be proved he was more than that, nothing he would say at his arrest is relevant to the case. Of course, it would be a different story if Oswald had admitted guilt during his arrest—but he never did, then or later.

PLAYBOY: Didn't Oswald pull a gun on the arresting officers in the theater?

LANE: A Dallas police officer said he did.

PLAYBOY: You say you believe there is no convincing proof that Oswald was more than a spectator to the assassination. Does this mean you think he was completely innocent, or could he have been involved in some subsidiary role in a conspiracy?

LANE: Let me put it this way: I am convinced that Oswald never pulled the trigger of the rifle that killed President Kennedy. If Oswald were alive, there would be many questions I'd like to ask him. For example, there is a vast amount of evidence suggesting that a man looking very much like Oswald, and using his name and background, was involved in a series of bizarre activities calculated to draw attention to the fact that Oswald intended to kill the President. This other Oswald was seen at times when the real Oswald was probably somewhere else—at work or even out of the country. This "Oswald" practiced at rifle ranges in and around Dallas and Irving, Texas, making a spectacle of himself by shooting at other people's targets; he talked of the assassination two months before it occurred; he bragged to automobile salesmen that he was soon coming into large sums of money; and he spoke of going back to Russia. In short, he engaged in the kind of odd conduct that would only make sense if there were a deliberate, premeditated attempt to frame Oswald by incriminating him in advance for the President's murder.

PLAYBOY: What does the Warren Commission say about all this?

LANE: In each case, the Commission concludes that this man could not have been

the real Lee Harvey Oswald. One example of this is the testimony of Mrs. Sylvia Odio, a prominent anti-Castro Cuban exile. She told the Commission that toward the end of September 1963 a man visited her in Dallas accompanied by two other men who were either Cuban or Mexican, and who knew things about her father, then imprisoned by Castro. The men seemed to know things that no one without inside information could know, she testified. They introduced their companion to her as "Leon Oswald," and later one of them said he was a former Marine and expert rifleman. One of the men told her Oswald had said, "President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs . . . it is so easy to do it." The two men suggested to Mrs. Odio that Oswald could "help in the underground activities" against Castro. Commission counsel showed Mrs. Odio photographs and motion pictures of Oswald and asked her if she had "any doubts" in her mind "after looking at these pictures that the man that was in your apartment was the same man as Lee Harvey Oswald." Mrs. Odio replied: "I don't have any doubts." Mrs. Odio's sister also testified the man looked exactly like Oswald. But the Commission showed conclusively that Oswald was not in Dallas when Mrs. Odio was visited by the three men. So who was "Leon Oswald"—and why was he talking about how easy it would be to assassinate the President? It appears possible that there may have been a concerted attempt to frame Oswald in advance for the murder of President Kennedy. The Commission, of course, never even examined such a possibility, and simply brushed aside all evidence pertaining to this "other" Oswald.

PLAYBOY: Did Oswald's interrogation shed any light on his Cuban connections?

LANE: Perhaps, but we may never know what Oswald said. Although he was interrogated by agents of the FBI, the Secret Service and the Dallas police for over 12 hours, the Commission says no stenographic notes or tape recordings were made. Dallas Homicide Chief Will Friez admitted he had made some rough notes—but tore them up after Oswald's murder! Just think about that: Here is the most important prisoner on the face of the earth, and the Commission would have us believe that his interrogation was not recorded by the FBI, the Secret Service or the Dallas police. But a Dallas newspaperman, Hugh Aynesworth, stated publicly that he saw a police stenographer enter the room where Oswald was being questioned. It's hard to understand what this stenographer was doing if not making a transcript. All we know is what Oswald told newsmen as he was being led back and forth through the hallways of police headquarters. He said then—and his words are preserved on video tape—that he was innocent and

had no connection with the murder of Officer Tippit. When asked if he had killed President Kennedy, Oswald looked stunned and said, "No one even asked me about that, I never heard about that. I didn't kill anyone." As the police dragged him away, he shouted that he was being made a "patsy." That's Oswald's word. In fact, one of his last words.

PLAYBOY: Are you saying that there exists no verbatim record whatsoever of anything Oswald said during those 12 hours of interrogation?

LANE: That may seem surprising to you, but I'm afraid I've now lost my capacity for surprise. The Dallas police claimed Oswald had been "lying" to them. By that, I assume they mean he continued to protest his innocence—or perhaps had something so explosive to say that the authorities decided to "protect" the public from it. In any case, Oswald was executed by Jack Ruby on November 24, before he could repeat his "lies" to the press—or to a jury.

PLAYBOY: You state in your book that "No interpretation of November 24 can exclude the certainty that Ruby murdered Oswald through the complicity or complacency of members of the police." On what evidence do you base that charge?

LANE: Let me say at the outset that the Warren Commission's conclusion that Ruby murdered Oswald is the only major conclusion in the Report that is supported by the evidence. Of course, the Warren Commission could hardly have held otherwise, since the murder took place live on nationwide TV. As for the question of police complicity, let's examine the Oswald slaying. The previous day, the FBI and the Dallas County sheriff's office were warned by anonymous telephone callers that Oswald was going to be killed, but the police officers in charge of his transfer—according to the Warren Commission—were not informed of these threats. The time of the transfer was announced to the public in advance; and when it took place—an hour and 15 minutes after it had been announced—the human corridor of police officers that was supposed to flank Oswald as he passed through the basement was not in place. The police car that was to take him away was also not where it was supposed to be. Jack Ruby was able to enter the jail through the Main Street ramp and shoot Oswald without a hitch. There were police behind Oswald and on each side, but none in the front.

PLAYBOY: Why not?

LANE: I don't know. I do know that all through Ruby's trial, there were always police officers to his right, to his left, in back of him and in front of him. So if anyone had wanted to kill Jack Ruby, he would have to kill a Dallas officer first. But Oswald's front was unprotected, giv-