

must be record time, considering his background.

**PLAYBOY:** Is there any evidence, as you intimated earlier, connecting Oswald with the FBI?

**LANE:** Well, a question might be raised by the fact that Oswald's address book contained the address and auto-license number of Dallas FBI Agent James Howy, and this was later deleted from the police list of Oswald's addresses. And Congressman Gerald Ford's book *Portrait of an Assassin* revealed that at the outset of the investigation, Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr and Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade informed the Commission that Oswald was an undercover informant for the FBI. These two Texas officials, Ford writes, disclosed that Oswald's FBI code number was 179, that he had been on the FBI payroll from September 1962 to the day of his death, and that his FBI salary was \$200 per month. Now, what did the Commission do upon receipt of this startling evidence? Did it launch an immediate investigation? No. Chief Counsel Rankin merely told the Commission, according to Congressman Ford: "We have a dirty rumor that is very bad for the Commission . . . and it is very damaging to the agencies that are involved in it and it must be wiped out insofar as possible to do so by this Commission." So without even examining this statement by two prominent Texas officials, the Commission labeled it a "dirty rumor" and decided "it must be wiped out." They did this quite effectively—by asking J. Edgar Hoover if it were true. He denied it. What could one expect him to say—"Oswald was working for me when he killed the President"? As far as the Commission was concerned, asking Hoover all but closed the subject. The sources of the allegation were never questioned. And since the minutes of Commission proceedings will not be made public for 75 years, we would never even have heard of the matter except for Congressman Ford's indiscretion.

**PLAYBOY:** In your book, you say that "The case against Lee Harvey Oswald was comprised essentially of evidence from two sources: Dallas police officers and Marina Oswald." You've already explained why you doubt the integrity of Dallas police. Why do you doubt Marina Oswald?

**LANE:** Marina changed her testimony so often it was difficult to determine which version the Commission accepted. At first, she declared that her husband was innocent and hadn't planned to murder anyone. Later, she told the Commission that the "facts" given to her by the Federal police convinced her that Oswald had, indeed, killed Kennedy in order to become famous. In other words, the police had to reveal her own husband's psychology to her. She at first testified that her husband was pacific and gentle

in his relationship with her; but later on, after she'd been isolated in the custody of the FBI and Secret Service for months, she stated that Oswald was brutal and beat her frequently. Marina originally said her husband never expressed hostility toward any person in public life. Later, after her confinement by the FBI and Secret Service, she testified her husband shot at General Edwin Walker. Marina also told FBI agents right after the assassination that she had never seen her husband with a pistol, and he had never owned a pistol. She also said she had never seen a telescopic sight. Yet the Commission relied on her later statement that she took the famous picture of Oswald holding a rifle equipped with a telescopic sight and wearing a pistol on his hip. And so it went: The longer she was in the custody of Federal authorities, the longer they questioned her and "revived" her memory, the more damning Marina Oswald's testimony became to her late husband. Brainwashing, it would seem, is not an exclusive property of the Chinese.

**PLAYBOY:** Do you impugn Marina's testimony that Oswald attempted to shoot General Walker on April 10, 1963?

**LANE:** I think the evidence does that. Her testimony on this subject "evolved" during the period she was in Federal custody. At first, she said she knew of no acts of violence committed by Oswald. Later, much later, she "remembered" the Walker incident. There was only one witness to the Walker shooting: Walter Kirk Coleman, a 14-year-old boy who lived in the house behind General Walker's. When he heard shots one night, he ran out and saw two men, one evidently with a rifle, jump into two cars and drive away. The Commission said Oswald could not drive. Coleman was shown pictures of Lee Oswald, and stated that neither of the two men looked anything like Oswald. The Commission, of course, never called Coleman, the only eyewitness, and relied wholly on Marina's unsupported, self-contradictory and belated allegations as to what her husband had said—not what she had seen.

**PLAYBOY:** Didn't investigators find a photograph of Walker's house among Oswald's possessions?

**LANE:** Yes—though, of course, that doesn't prove Oswald was the one who took it. Let's take a look at it: It's a rather mysterious photograph. It shows Walker's house, with an automobile parked in front. There is, however, a hole torn in the photograph, deleting the back portion of the car. Marina Oswald testified that this hole had been torn in the photograph after it came into possession of the Warren Commission. She testified: "When the FBI first showed me this photograph, I remember that the license plate, the number of the license plate was on this car, and was on the