

OSWALD

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SECTION 204

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FROM: SAC NEW YORK (105-38431)

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
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Lucy

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau are three copies of a letterhead memorandum containing verbatim transcription of that portion of the Les Crane TV Show, NY, on 8/5/64, which featured as guest panelists MARGUERITE OSWALD, mother of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and MELVIN BELLI, former defense attorney for JACK RUBY. Enclosed for Dallas is one copy of same letterhead memorandum.

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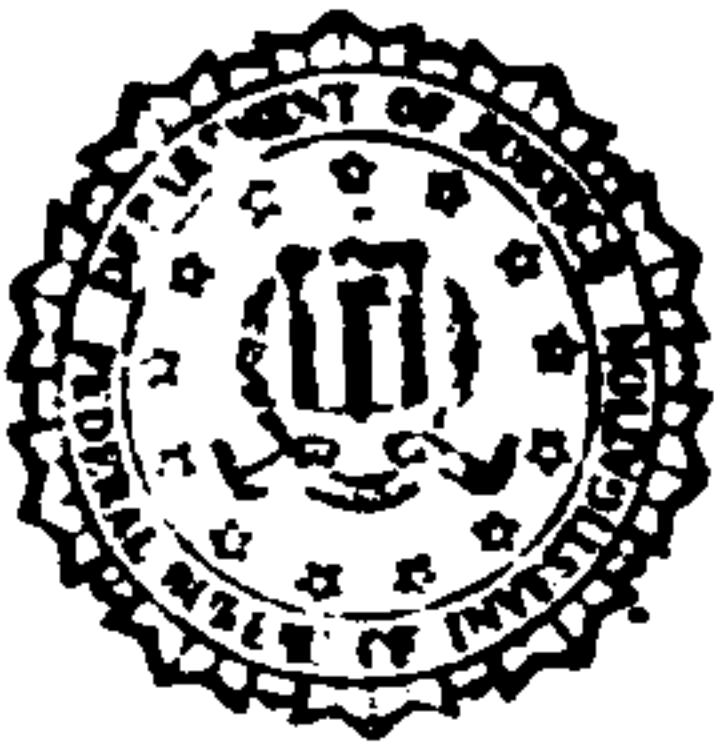
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3 ENCLOSED



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
August 26, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Lee Harvey Oswald

The following is a verbatim transcription of that portion of the Les Crane Television Show, New York, on August 5, 1964, which featured as guest panelists Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, and Melvin Belli, former defense attorney for Jack Ruby.

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Mr. Crane

Mrs. Oswald, Mrs. Oswald, I think this probably is going to be the easiest interview to start off my career. The obvious question, I think, on everybody's mind in the country and in this room at this time - do you think he did it?

Mrs. Oswald

No, of course not and this is why I thank my emotional stability and come on such programs as yours, Les, and the many, many programs I have been on, because I certainly have investigated this thoroughly and believe that my son, Lee Harvey Oswald, is innocent of the crime, the charge, against him, not only President Kennedy's assassination but the murder of Patrolman Tippit. I do not speak as a mother, I am a mother first of all, and it's because I am a mother, I guess, that I do take my stability emotionally and come before audiences, but I also speak as a human being. I have investigated this thoroughly and because I, myself, know more about Lee than any human being living.

Mr. Crane

Let me ask you this. Let's go back in time a little bit. Since the assassination, there have been many, many articles in magazines, diaries have been published, letters allegedly written between yourself and Lee, letters

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ENCLOSURE

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Lee Harvey Oswald

between Lee and his wife, Marina, and so forth. What's your reaction to the publication of these diaries and this information about the boy, the man?

Mrs. Oswald

About the diary, I'm going to have to assume, like the rest of the public, that it is Lee's diary; however, all of Lee's letters to me and all of the correspondence is in longhand and if any of you have noticed, on particularly "Life" cover the diary is printed and there's many, many things in the diary that I know are incorrect. Now I'm going to cite one of those things that I, as a mother, would see that no one else could possibly see. My husband, Lee's father, was an insurance agent. This is the term that we used, I'm originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, so Lee has heard this all of his life that his father was an insurance agent and in the diary it says, "My father died before I was born and he was an insurance salesman." So you see just this little thing is most important. I am just assuming that this is Lee's diary. I have no proof.

Mr. Crane

But you're actually, you're casting doubt as to whether it is or isn't.

Mrs. Oswald

Yes, I am casting doubt because it would be very easy to compile such a diary through dates and so on and so forth from State Department correspondence, which by the way, two copies of State Department correspondence have been stolen from my home and also the original affidavits from the Red Cross, because I have an accident, were also stolen, but I would like to make this public now. The people that have stole this do not have the complete set and this is why I have them in my home. Naturally I keep everything in a safety deposit

Lee Harvey Oswald

box, all in the State of Texas, but I must have some things with me in order to investigate and research. So they do not have the complete array of State Department literature but I wish them success with whatever they want to do with this and I'm under the impression that part of this was used in the diary because the dates are so exact with the correspondence of the State Department.

Mr. Crane

Now there have been many speculations and many areas of investigation that people have written about your relationship with Lee, how you got along as a mother and son, and the picture that has been painted has been not too glowing.

Mrs. Oswald

Yes, you're so right there and you see I'm in the minority group. I believe that my son is innocent and it's much easier to believe that he's guilty and let's let him lie. Let's accept the fact because the awful truth is too awful maybe for us to understand. But I don't believe this. I believe the truth should be known. If my son is guilty, any other member of my family or any one club or even the President of the United States, or Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, or any high official, if I find them guilty, I, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, expect to let the public know. I will not cover up for anybody in authority.

Mr. Crane

Well, do you feel, you've been obviously exploring this thing, you've read all the books written about it, you've discussed it with lawyers, you've checked over the police records and the dates and times, you've looked at the photographs and there apparently is quite a bit of controversy ranging around the world, at least about some of these photographs.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald Yes, but I think there should be controversy. There's so much speculation, so much untruth and, Mr. Crane, you said that there was a bad picture of me and my relationship with Lee. Now I have had published in "Esquire" magazine sixteen letters that Lee wrote to me and anyone who has read Lee's original letters to his mother from Russia know what he thought about his mother. This is all together a different boy than has been exploited in the newspapers and the magazines. This is his letters to his mother and they were not doctored. This is the only true thing that has ever come out publicly and that has never been doctored. ✓ ~~delete~~

Mr. Crane You've suggested to various people that you've spoken to that there's more to this business about him defecting to the Soviet Union and returning than meets the eye. What's your

Mrs. Oswald Well naturally. Lee was an agent of our United States Government.

Mr. Crane Well, you're making a statement now that has yet to be proven.

Mrs. Oswald Yes, I am but I can back up.

Mr. Crane Well, I assume you've testified before the Warren Commission.

Mrs. Oswald Yes, I have made this statement before the Warren Commission.

Mr. Crane Then I'm sure you're aware of the fact that one of the investigators assigned to this case and on the Warren Commission is Mr. Allen Dulles who was at that time, I believe, the head of the CIA, which seems to me as though he would know pretty much

Mrs. Oswald Yes, Mr. Allen Dulles, you see, you have two administrations in my son's life, when Lee

Lee Harvey Oswald

was in the service and when Lee went to Russia, he was in the younger administrative group and Allen Dulles was head of the CIA at that particular time and, of course, he is on the Warren Commission as most people know. And then you have the Kennedy administration that brought this boy back to the United States. So you have two political groups.

Mr. Crane

Well, what makes you think, obviously he never could have or never would have, so if he was, in fact, a secret agent for our government he never would have or could have told you that so what makes you feel that this is the case?

Mrs. Oswald

Well, because of many, many things that I have in black and white. It isn't that I think this. I feel sure that I know but, of course, I can never prove it; it would be up to the government to say whether Lee was an agent or not. I have made this statement many times and I will make it now. I have more circumstantial evidence in my possession, written evidence, that Lee was an agent of the United States Government than the Dallas police have that he murdered Patrolman Tippit or President Kennedy, this is for sure.

Mr. Crane

Again what I'm asking you for, you've made this statement boldly and flatly, Lee was an agent of the government. Give me a fact or two.

Mrs. Oswald

All right. I will start then at age 15½ years. Lee was a cadet in a Civil Air Patrol and this is the time that we had just arrived from New York back to New Orleans, which is our home town, and as soon as we reached there he became a member of the Civil Air Patrol at 15½ years. Now I have his picture in the uniform and at 16 years old Lee tried to join

Lee Harvey Oswald

the Marines and the reason why he did this, he quit school at age 16 two weeks before his birthday, there was a U.S. Marine Recruiting Officer who had influenced this boy while he was with the Civil Air Cadets to become a Marine at age 16. I will prove this. When I returned, I'm ahead of my story. Lee came into the place of business where I was and said, "Mother, I have quit school because I want to join the Marines." I said, "Lee, go home and wait for me. I will be off work in a little while." So when I arrived the Marine Recruiting Officer, in uniform, was at my apartment with my son. I said, "No, I will not let Lee join the Marines. He's too young at age 16." He said, "Well, Mrs. Oswald, a lot of boys do at age 16. The boy has quit school and this is what he wants to do." And I said, "No. He's too young and he may be sent overseas." He said, "Mrs. Oswald, there's less delinquency overseas actually than we have here." And I didn't go along with the idea. Now you mothers who have children age 15 and 16 years old that get a specific idea such as this wanting to join the Marines, you will realize it's an awfully hard thing to combat and control. So for three days Lee and I were at each other's throat about this because he wanted me to sign a birth certificate saying that he was 17 years old. So I spoke to the rest of the family and they all said, "Well, let him go."

Mr. Crane Forgive me. I

Mrs. Oswald Surely.

Mr. Crane You know we're on television and there's a slight time problem here.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald . Well, he did join the Marines then at age 17, and now the point I'm going to make. He did join the Marines at age 16, however, they sent him home because they found out that he was 16 years old.

Mr. Crane Yes ma'am.

Mrs. Oswald Well, between age 16 and 17 years old Lee lived to become a Marine. Now his brother, Robert, had just came home from the Marines and left the Marine manual at home and that is when Lee Harvey Oswald was reading his brother's Marine manual and also Karl Marx, which is communist literature. Now at age 17 on his birthday he did join the Marines and he was in the Marines for three years less three weeks when he got a dire need discharge.

Mr. Crane A dire need?

Mrs. Oswald A dire need discharge.

Mr. Crane That's what they call a hardship discharge?

Mrs. Oswald . A hardship discharge because I had had an accident and I was destitute. I waited eight months before I told my son anything about it. I didn't want to worry him about it.

Mr. Crane All right.

Mrs. Oswald All right. So then Lee is only home three days when he goes to Russia. Now we're going to have to skip, as you say, I realize I'm on television. Let's go a little faster. So the boy goes to Russia and he's in Russia not quite three years. He meets a Russian girl but before he met the Russian girl he had gone to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and I was informed that Lee wanted to come home, that he had been to the Embassy in Moscow. Now I

Lee Harvey Oswald

had researched for twenty months trying to locate my son with no avail. This is the first contact. So the boy wants to come home to America, I'm informed. Then a few weeks after he marries the Russian girl.

Mr. Crane

Marina?

Mrs. Oswald

U.S. R. Texas La
Marina. This doesn't make sense that a boy who has been in Russia for twenty months, then wants to come home, turns around and marries a Russian girl. Now the way I figure this is that he was told to marry this Russian girl. This is his job, part of his job. You must understand everything I say, that I think my son is an agent and I wish I had the time and the places to prove to you. I think that this boy was told to bring this girl back here to America so that they could get in with Russian people here. This is his work you must understand, as far as I am concerned. This is his work and his diary proves this. Part of this diary is proof that Lee was an agent. Also, he said when he denounced his country and the Russians wouldn't accept him, the thing to do is to (unintelligible), dunk it in hot water, take it out, put it in cold water. If this is a boy who has no country and is on a spot, he's not going to write in his diary how to commit suicide. This boy is trained what to do.

Mr. Crane

In other words you feel as though the United States Government, because they allowed him to come back to this country with his bride after defecting to the Soviet Union, this tends to prove something?

Mrs. Oswald

Well, Crane, it's not as simple as that but that's the basis of it. The thing is it's awfully hard to get out of Russia, as we know, and it's awfully hard to get a Russian girl out of Russia, and another thing, if this boy

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane

Wait, wait. Do you think that our government would make it easier to get a Russian girl out of Russia?

Mrs. Oswald

It's quite possible. This is a very, very long thing to go into but when this boy, then who was a, got out of the service ahead of time and didn't stay in the United States and went to Russia as a defector, let's say, and then he comes back and the government helps him to come back, not only money wise, which was the loan, but every way possible; I have the papers. I have the papers. They were always contacting me step by step and he comes back and he's not persecuted. Isn't it strange that our Marine service would let a boy be, let's say, AWOL? He went to Russia when he got a dire need discharge, and then to come back and do nothing about this. How many servicemen can get out of the service ahead of time?

Mr. Crane

In other words you're saying

Mrs. Oswald

And then go to Russia as a defector and come back to the United States without being questioned or put into the hoosegow? Answer that question for me.

Mr. Crane

Okay. We're going to come back with some more questions for you and Mr. Melvin Belli, who is a lawyer of great repute and an eminent authority in this case obviously for more discussion about this case in two minutes 15 seconds from right now.

Mr. Crane

My guests are Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald who was alleged to have slain President Kennedy and now may I introduce to you Mr. Melvin Belli. What I was going to say is Mr. Melvin Belli, noted

Lee Harvey Oswald

attorney from the grand and glorious city of San Francisco and (unintelligible) cry on each others shoulders for the next (unintelligible). Yes you are going back. After these next five days, I may be going back as well. Before I bring you in, I have one question, another one, that I've been dying to ask Mrs. Oswald. I heard a shocking quote attributed to you. I had understood, and there's no offense intended here

Mrs. Oswald That's all right. I'm use to it.

Mr. Crane But I understood

Mrs. Oswald I'm in the minority group. I don't expect people to like me.

Mr. Crane All right. I understood that it was reported in a national magazine that you had requested an interview with President Johnson and this request was denied and the statement was attributed to you as follows: "Well, he's got some nerve not wanting to see me. If it wasn't for my son, he wouldn't be President." Did you say that?

Mrs. Oswald No, of course not. I have

Mr. Crane That was printed you know.

Mrs. Oswald Yes. No, I don't know about this part being printed. About the request to see President Kennedy

Mr. Crane Johnson.

Mrs. Oswald Johnson, this is absolutely false. The whole thing is false and this is what is deplorable with me. They seem to write and say anything they want. I am in the minority group. I am

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the mother of the accused assassin of the United States and it's much easier to let this lie than to bring it out in the open.

Mr. Crane

Well, that's why we're here tonight. Another thing

Mrs. Oswald

And most of all I go on television to bring the things out in the open. I wish I could talk straight for three hours instead of being interrupted. I think I will give some pertinent information. There's no question I cannot bring out the true facts and the newspapers and the magazines won't give me true coverage. They lie. In "Redbook" there's a story that when I spoke before thousands of people in New York City at Town Hall that I was paid \$5,000.00. I want you to know and the audience listening that I was paid transportation and \$100.00 for expenses.

Mr. Crane

I'd like to add at this point that Mrs. Oswald is not being paid for her appearance on this program as well. We brought her to New York and we will pay her expenses and return.

Mrs. Oswald

I do not accept money for this appearance. I expect transportation and hotel bills.

Mr. Crane

One point that you touched on which is quite, I think that's reasonable. One point that you touched on which is the most exciting thing about all of this to me, I want you people here and I want you people at home to think about this for just one second, we are sitting here in the studios of a major broadcasting company of America and we are talking to the mother of a man who, it is alleged, assassinated our President not too long ago. This is being

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broadcast coast to coast. I wonder if anybody here thinks this would be taking place in any other country in the world today except ours. That's pretty wonderful isn't it? Pretty exciting. All right, one last question and then to Mr. Belli. Have you ever, did you ever see Jack Ruby before the time that you saw the pictures of him in the Dallas jail?

Mrs. Oswald No, but I saw a picture of Jack Ruby on November 23, shown to me by an FBI agent.

Mr. Crane Wait a minute. November 23?

Mrs. Oswald Yes, before my son was murdered. A picture of Jack Ruby

Mr. Crane That's the day before.

Mrs. Oswald The day before.

Mr. Crane The day before Jack Ruby

Mrs. Oswald The day before my son was murdered while all in Dallas, the FBI and all of the authorities were saying that they had a threat on Lee Harvey Oswald's life and the Dallas police were supposedly to have been told by the FBI that they had these threats. At 6:30 on November 23 at the Executive Inn where I was with my daughter-in-law an FBI man tried to show the picture to my daughter-in-law. It wasn't meant for me but I wouldn't let my daughter-in-law see the picture because she had this young baby and we had been moved from place to place for the last few days and I said, "I'm awfully sorry but you can't talk to her unless we have an attorney." And then he showed me the picture of Jack Ruby.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane: What you're claiming is that they showed you a picture of Jack Ruby before Ruby shot your son.

Mrs. Oswald: On November 23, 6:30 in the afternoon at the Inn of the Executives.

Mr. Crane: Well, what do you know about that?

Mrs. Oswald: Where we couldn't talk to a lawyer or anybody.

Mr. Belli: I think it's a mother's duty to do what this mother is doing today to defend her son.

Mrs. Oswald: Thank you.

Mr. Belli: I've never prosecuted and I can't accuse this mother but I can say in answer to some of the things that she's raised here that, forgive me for saying this, I think she's errant. I think she's completely errant. Jack Ruby did not know Lee Harvey Oswald before the shooting, of that I am certain.

Mrs. Oswald: No. I am certain that he didn't know Lee. I didn't say he knew Lee before the shooting. I'm saying that there was a threat on my son's life before the shooting and the authorities got wind that it was Jack Ruby who was going to do the shooting.

Mr. Belli: I wonder if Mrs. Oswald will take, or may I ask her directly, will take the word of the Warren Commission as to what they say happened?

Mrs. Oswald: No. I won't take the word of anyone on this because I was shown a picture of Jack Ruby and this is for sure.

Mr. Belli: But I mean as to who did what and who shot who and who was responsible. Would you take the word of the Warren Commission on this?

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald On who shot who? You mean if Lee Harvey Oswald shot the President?

Mr. Belli Yes.

Mrs. Oswald No sir, unless I am shown the evidence. I'm a very reasonable person and my son could be guilty. He is a human being.

Mr. Belli You see it's a very difficult thing. ✓

Mrs. Oswald But I want proof.

Mr. Belli To accuse the mother or ask the mother to say a son is guilty and I don't think that anyone

Mr. Crane Nobody's asked her to do that.

Mr. Belli I don't think anyone would do that, but I do say if you ask me directly with reference to some of these hearsay statements and I say that respectfully, of course, with Mrs. Oswald, that from what I know of the case, and I must now say that I think that I know as much about it as, in legal evidence, as anyone living including those who were on the Warren Commission and I know that there was no connection between Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald and from everything I know, the mother's son was the responsible party.

Mr. Crane But let me ask you

Mr. Belli That made no differences in my representation of Jack Ruby, of course.

Mr. Crane Let me ask you a few questions now.

Mr. Belli Yes sir.

Mr. Crane As you probably know there have been photographs shown around the world, not too prominently in this country, for example the alleged murder weapon. I've seen pictures of this rifle with

Lee Harvey Oswald

the telescopic sight as published in American magazines. I've seen the pictures of the exact picture posed with the same fellow, in theory the exact same gun without the telescopic sight on it and the assumption you might draw from this is that the telescopic sight was added to the photograph prior to its being released.

Mr. Belli

Well, we come to the ultimate conclusion that there must be some finders of fact in this democratic system of ours and I think that we picked the greatest finder of fact and the most objective man with the utmost integrity, our Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He went down, he talked to Jack Ruby. He did all of the investigation which a human being could do. We're never certain on these things but I would say as certain as we can be, the person we're talking about did shoot the President and I know that Jack Ruby did shoot the son.

Mr. Crane

Another question. I don't want to put you on trial, obviously I'm out of my

Mr. Belli

And I'm reluctant, of course, to prosecute.. I've never been a prosecutor. I've defended.

Mr. Crane

What I want

(unintelligible).

There has probably been more armchair generally, that's not the right term, the armchair lawyering of your conduct at the Ruby trial than any other trial in recent time and one of the points raised.

Mr. Belli

If they were all there to try the case we'd still be trying it, but the thing they say too (unintelligible).

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane

You put all your eggs in one basket, the insanity basket. I wonder if you've got any second thoughts about the way you

Mr. Belli

No. No, we didn't. No, we didn't. Because when we argued the case, we argued the case for three individuals, the normal man in Dallas at that time who would have been so upset he would have done a thing like this, then the normal man who cracks under the strain, and then, thirdly, the man who had the mental aberration that Jack Ruby did have and does and we prognosed at the time before the trial that Jack Ruby did have organic brain damage and that he would attempt suicide afterwards and fortunately or tragically or unfortunately, we were proved right. Jack Ruby does have brain damage and Jack Ruby is insane and I think that will be proved more later on. Now when we argued the case we did wrap up within that argument the scientific argument and the only honest argument that we could make.

*Mr. Belli
would have
contended
live & he
prognosticated -
reported on tape
that's it.
S*

Mr. Crane

Mrs. Oswald, how was your relationship with Marina, your daughter-in-law, before, not before the event, but in the few days immediately after the assassination?

Mrs. Oswald

Yes. Well, I think the American people saw me in my nurse's uniform coming to the rescue of my daughter-in-law, who I love very dearly, and we were held in protective custody. Well, first I was alone with Marina for two days and Marina had also made statements and they have been printed in magazines, that "Lee no do this. Lee good man." And then we were put in protective custody at the end of the sixth day and the babies were ill and I was very busy with the Russian girl and two young babies that had diarrhea and the Secret Servicemen and my son. All the men were in

Lee Harvey Oswald

the living room and we were in the bedroom, when I had the doctor sometimes three times a day, so I wasn't even watching television, and knowing what was going on just getting snatches. So Marina and I were very, very close and I had had an insurance policy on my son that was extended insurance because when I was ill I was destitute, as I told you, and for a \$21.00 annual premium that I couldn't pay it elapsed, so I had it for eight hundred and some odd dollars. I wasn't sure if it was still effective so I insisted upon going home because I thought now we can start out with this. You must remember we had no donations of any kind at this particular time. This is the three day period after my son was murdered.

Mr. Crane

You and Marina were friendly at this

Mrs. Oswald

Very friendly and everything was "Mama" this and "Mama" this. So I remembered about the policy and we were going to live together. "I no want big house Mama, I want small house." And this was all settled and thus on the 27th of November I walked into the bedroom and I said something to my daughter-in-law and she brushed me aside and walked away. Well, that morning I had acted as interpreter for Marina for an FBI agent and I naturally was using the name Lee quite a bit and I thought maybe she thought I was hurting her husband. So I waited a while and about a half hour later I went again. She shrugged me away again. So I walked into the main room where my son and all of the Secret Servicemen were and the others and I said, "Robert, what's wrong with Marina? She doesn't want to talk to me. She has pushed me aside." He said, "Mother, I'll tell you what's wrong. She has had an offer to go to live in a very wealthy woman's home who will educate her children and she doesn't know how to tell you." I said, "Well, Robert, why didn't you tell me?" "Well, just the way you're acting now."

Lee Harvey Oswald

I said, "How am I acting now? My son has been murdered. Now you're asking me to give up my daughter and grandchildren to strangers. How do ~~you~~ expect me to act?" "Well, you see this is why we didn't tell you." And this is the very last time that I have seen my daughter-in-law or grandchildren. ✓ *delete*

Mr. Crane

Now let me get back to you for just a second. Immediately after the trial you had an interview outside on the Dallas Courthouse steps and you said some pretty explosive things about the trial and the kind of

Mr. Belli

Factual things still the less and still agree with them.

Mr. Crane

You made some wild statements about the city of Dallas.

Mr. Belli

They weren't wild. As a matter of fact, Judge Sarah Hughes, who's the United States District Judge in Dallas, said the same thing rather recently to a congress of South American newspaper editors. She said that Dallas was a city of shame and the only city that this assassination could take place and she made some comment about a sick man doing a thing like this.

Mr. Crane

Well, you were censored at the time, were you not, by the American Bar Association? ✓

Mr. Belli

They attempted to and that's the result of my suit against the President of the American Bar for saying I was unethical in crying out that this was a kangaroo court (unintelligible) and just the other day I came across a United States Supreme Court decision, Sapple vs. New York, in which the United States Supreme Court used the expression regarding a censorship case in New York. This procedure is a

Lee Harvey Oswald

kangaroo court and the American Bar isn't going to cancel the United States Supreme Court on that, I'm sure, but they did me because it did and I think that when the transcript is made available we'll see that it did, both from the way the jury was picked and the trial was run. ✓ *cancel*

Mr. Crane We'll be back with the final few moments of this particular discussion in just two minutes and fifteen seconds from right now.

Mr. Crane My guests tonight are Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of the alleged assassin of President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Mr. Melvin Belli, the very colorful and charming gentleman from San Francisco who defended the slayer of Mrs. Oswald's son, Jack Ruby. Mel, how's your career been since this particular case? Have you found any dramatic alterations in your personal practice?

Mr. Belli No, except that I had to hide some of the letters that came in from Dallas so the younger members of my family couldn't see them.

Mr. Crane Really?

Mr. Belli Yeah.

Mr. Crane You got a lot of that hate?

Mr. Belli From the sophisticated South and the warm, hospitable city of Dallas there were some pretty rough letters that came in and some that came in from Mississippi and some from Alabama. ✓

Mr. Crane Have you been the target of much of this kind of hate?

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald: No, surprisingly I haven't. In the beginning I held a press conference at the Parkway (phonetic) Press Club and there was a threat on my life if I went through with the press conference which, of course, I did. I am not going to let anyone intimidate me in any way whatsoever. As I said before, I don't care who I find that's involved with this. If my son is guilty, I believe there are other people involved.

Mr. Crane: Well, wouldn't you say, Mrs. Oswald, there's a tone of voice and an attitude and a whole funny transformation that takes place when you start talking about "I don't care who is involved in this." Are you prepared to make some kind of an allegation tonight that you know somebody

Mrs. Oswald: Well, no, I think

Mr. Crane: About somebody else being involved?

Mrs. Oswald: Yes. I stick to my very original theory and I have had many, many letters with many, many theories, many books have been written, that I have read, and there's many theories about who killed Kennedy and why and so on and so forth and when I'm not (unintelligible) under protective custody and came into my own home, I have eh, the newsmen were there, I made the statement and I still stick to this statement after nine months investigative work, I say it much stronger now. I think because of the material that I have myself because I researched Lee's defection, that the leak is in our own State Department. Now I believe in America and I believe in our American way of life but we all know that we have corruption in anything and I say we have a few corrupt men in high power that wanted President Kennedy out of the way and that my son was a perfect patsy.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Belli May I answer that just briefly?

Mr. Crane Sure.

Mr. Belli Les, that's one of the reasons I came on the program this evening, again starting with the premise that I can't attack a mother for doing what she's doing but I do feel that if we're going to rely on hearsay and we're going to make wild statements under the guise of freedom of speech,

Mrs. Oswald Mr. Belli, (unintelligible)

Mr. Belli Look, you believe in freedom of speech and I do too, so let me answer you, and let me answer you just this and say nothing more. I've seen the headlines that Mark Lane, a lawyer, generated in Europe and generated

Mrs. Oswald That's nothing to do with me.

Mr. Belli Just a moment please now. I've been very gracious, I think. And in Greece and in Norway, Sweden, that there was a conspiracy here and that the people of the United States weren't told about who the real slayer was but it was a conspiracy between Ruby and Oswald and here when the cards are down in a democracy the people aren't told and there's an unseen government and I think that what you're saying on the hearsay and these statements about people in corrupt governmental offices in the State Department is only giving fuel to enemies abroad.

Mrs. Oswald Mr. Belli, it isn't hearsay.

Mr. Belli It's awfully difficult to make the statement

Mrs. Oswald Les, it isn't hearsay.

Mr. Crane Let him go ahead.

(Unintelligible)

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane Mrs. Oswald, let him finish.

Mrs. Oswald But he's saying it's hearsay and I can prove it isn't.

Mr. Crane Well, let him finish.

Mr. Belli I've listened very patiently this evening and since the time of the slaying and I haven't heard one statement, other than hearsay, or one bit of evidence in this case that would hold up, not only in court in my form, but in a court of human relations or between us on the street or with American citizens. I haven't seen one bit of information. Now we've got to rely on somebody to give us information.

Mrs. Oswald Well, I have

Mr. Crane Mrs. Oswald

Mr. Belli We've got then to rely on the people of the utmost integrity in this country and I would rely on the Chief Justice and the Commission.

Mrs. Oswald Well, then why

(Unintelligible)

Mr. Crane I don't think Mr. Belli, once he gets started

Mr. Belli But I think you're doing a tremendous service in this country which, Les points out, wouldn't be allowed in any country in the world, that you'd have this freedom of speech that you have here.

(Unintelligible)

Mrs. Oswald Your statement is hearsay because I testified before the Warren Commission for three days with documents this high and how do you know it's hearsay?

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Belli

Might I ask you just this question, madam? Would you be willing to listen to what is said in the Warren report reporting the documents that you brought there? Would you think that the Chief Justice would be fair enough and honest enough accurately to report you and your documents? Would you believe that?

Mrs. Oswald

Mr. Belli, I

Mr. Belli

Would you answer me just that directly?

Mrs. Oswald

I can answer you this directly. I have made this statement continuously that I think the Warren Commission will be most fair but I do not think it's the proper type of commission, investigative commission, for this particular case.

Mr. Crane

Headed by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court?

Mrs. Oswald

I think we needed both sides cross examined. I think that we needed a Senate investigating committee.

Mr. Belli

This is not a trial. A Senate investigating

Mr. Crane

I don't believe we have an answer to it.

Mr. Belli

Would you just say this, would you answer me on this? Will you believe that the Chief Justice will report you and your records accurately? Do you believe that?

Mrs. Oswald

Mr. Belli, I'm going to quote the Chief Justice. May I quote Chief Justice Warren before the Commission?

Mr. Belli

Well, I would rather have you answer the question.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald . Well, I want a cross examination. "No ma'am, Mrs. Oswald, your son is not on trial here. There is an accusation against your son in the Dallas court but this Commission is not warranted an accusation against your son." I have this in black and white in the testimony before the Warren Commission. My son is not on trial before the Warren Commission.

Mr. Belli I thought he was. Weren't they determining who

Mrs. Oswald No sir. I have this in black and white.

Mr. Belli Weren't they determining who shot President Kennedy?

Mrs. Oswald No sir. When I appeared

Mr. Belli What are they determining then?

Mrs. Oswald Well, you'll have to ask Chief Justice Warren about

Mr. Belli No, what did you think they were determining?

Mrs. Oswald All right. I thought they were so when I

Mr. Belli No, what did you think they were determining?

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I thought they were determining the killing of President Kennedy and the consequent killing of my son and when I

Mr. Belli What do you think now that they're investigating?

Mrs. Oswald Well, I'll tell you what Chief Justice Warren said and I'll quote it over nationwide. I have it in black and white.

Mr. Belli Don't tell me what he said. Just tell me what you think they were investigating.

Mrs. Oswald I thought that (unintelligible)

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald · My son was not on trial before the Warren Commission, but there is no accusation against my son in the Warren Commission but in the Dallas Police Court.

Mr. Belli Well, let me ask you again if the Warren Commission comes out and says that they have investigated whether your son did the shooting, that they examined you, took your evidence, took your documentary and oral evidence and if the Chief Justice says in that report that it was your son, then would you believe that?

Mrs. Oswald What you are doing, Mr. Belli

Mr. Belli Well, would you believe that?

Mrs. Oswald You are questioning me as an attorney and in answering, expecting me to answer yes or no.

Mr. Belli Now, I'm not an attorney now, just asking you a simple question.

Mrs. Oswald I'm not going to answer yes or no like a cross examination.

Mr. Crane So, let's listen Mrs. Oswald.

Mrs. Oswald Please, I'm right.

Mr. Crane He's not on the witness stand. She's not, you know, this is no (unintelligible) court we're holding.

Mrs. Oswald Well, I'm gonna be again in the minority group and be wrong if I say no that I don't think the Warren Commission

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Belli Well Mrs. Oswald, I think my record stands with that question that I represented those

Mrs. Oswald But you're an attorney. I'm just an (unintelligible).

Mr. Belli But let me put the question without accusing me or my profession or trying to trick you. Won't you believe what the Warren report says?

Mrs. Oswald I will not sir unless they prove it to me. Now does that answer your question?

Mr. Belli How could they prove it to you?

Mrs. Oswald By showing me things. I know nothing. People in the audience, I know as much as you do. When the report is given I will read it like you will read it and yet I am the mother of an accused assassin of the United States. I have some rights, American rights, and judicial rights to say now Mrs. Oswald

Mr. Crane Well, first of all.

Mrs. Oswald Can you a, a, a.

Mr. Crane First of all Mrs

Mrs. Oswald Let me show you your son's rights.

Mr. Crane Did you give all the jury evidence to the Warren Commission?

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I gave

Mr. Crane All of your evidence to the Warren Commission?

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I gave them

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane All of your evidence to the Warren Commission?

Mrs. Oswald Yes.

Mr. Crane So that we have to determine whether they, looking at all of the evidence that you gave them, give an honest report.

Mrs. Oswald Well here's a little instance. Here is a letter that my daughter-in-law, a little note that my daughter-in-law claims that she found weeks after the statements were made that Lee took a shot at Walker. Does the Warren Commission or the FBI or the Secret Service or any authority group come to me and ask me if its my son's handwriting? No, Sir. And I'll tell you something that you don't know. I have never been questioned by the FBI or the Secret Service when Lee Harvey Oswald went to Russia. Isn't it strange that no authority group came to the mother of this spy who got out of service, as I said before, ahead of time and supposed to defect to Russia and no authoritative group came to me and questioned me about this.

Mr. Crane Wait a minute. Wait a minute.

Mr. Belli Mrs. Oswald, I have heard that there were some psychiatric reports that were given to you about your son when he was in the

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I'm happy that you brought it up and I have been waiting for you to say it.

Mr. Belli Well, I haven't put the whole question yet. If you know the answer then without the question, then if you want to give me the answer.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I do. I know the answer. Yes, I do. This is another instance like I received \$5,000.00 for the New York

Mr. Belli No, just a psychiatric report. Not the \$5,000.00.

Mrs. Oswald Well, I. This is an audience here if you'll let me say.

Mr. Belli Well, don't explain to the audience, just answer my question, cause you've been doing that for a long time.

Mrs. Oswald Well, you're an attorney and I'm a lady and I don't talk like you do. Don't talk like you do.

Mr. Belli What about the psychiatric report?

Mrs. Oswald No. Never.

Mr. Belli Well, the answer is no.

Mrs. Oswald And the results

Mr. Belli At no. time

Mrs. Oswald And it was also said that I had psychiatric treatment and I've never had psychiatric treatment. I've never been in a hospital. But there's been many many things, untrue things, that, and this is what is deplorable. You must realize that. I must get true press coverage but I don't because I'm in the minority group and this is a fact.

Mr. Crane Well Mrs. Oswald, Mrs. Oswald, you've certainly had

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald I'm getting it here.

Mr. Crane You're getting it here.

Mrs. Oswald But you see I cannot bring out the whole story. I appreciate this and its (unintelligible). I came by plane to come on the program for a few minutes, but it doesn't tell the whole story why I think my son is an agent. Not why I think he's an agent but the actual papers that I have to make me think he's an agent. I don't have the time to go into everything.

Mr. Belli Mrs. Oswald, do you tell us then that you never at any time had any psychiatric reports on your son in his teens?

Mrs. Oswald That is absolutely correct.

Mr. Belli And you never knew that Lee had psychiatric treatment.

Mrs. Oswald That is absolutely correct and when they said he fled New York because I did not want to give my son psychiatric treatment

Mr. Belli Who said this?

Mrs. Oswald This has been in all of the magazines and the newspapers. I can prove this. That Lee was picked up for truancy in the spring and we stayed in New York ten months later when he got out of the home for truancy.

Mr. Belli All right. Let me ask you if I may

Mrs. Oswald So how can you say I flee?

Mr. Belli Just another question for the sake of time because we're going to have to rely on, at

Lee Harvey Oswald

least I think we will, the Warren report.
Did you have an opportunity to give all of
your evidence before the Warren report?

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I have given all of my evidence.

Mr. Belli They gave you a fair hearing. Did they?

Mrs. Oswald Before the Warren Commission and I have spent - ✓
I have no income. This is not of any value
to anybody.

Mr. Belli Did they give you a fair hearing?

Mrs. Oswald But since then I have given the Warren Commission
information and just one month ago I called
the Warren Commission. I had had a witness
for four months that I didn't want to go see
alone. A young lady gave me this information.
N She went to speak to this woman, who was a
negro woman, who lived, worked, in the vicinity ✓
of the Tippit murder, and I had had this infor-
mation but I couldn't investigate it alone.
Just four weeks there were some people at my
home that I didn't know that came to Dallas,
and they asked if I wanted to talk about the
case so I asked them to go with me. So then
I reported it to the Warren Commission. I
have yet

Mr. Belli In order words, you gave all of the evidence
you had to the Warren Commission.

Mrs. Oswald Yes, sir, even now, even now for the past
nine months.

Mr. Belli Yea. They didn't foreclose you on anything,
did they?

Mrs. Oswald I want to say that I gave them the

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Belli Is that correct?

Mrs. Oswald Warren Commission the last four weeks

Mr. Belli Wait a minute.

Mrs. Oswald This is an eye witness to the Tippit murder and there was an accident on tenth and (unintelligible) the morning of the assassination and the Tippit murder, there were two men, one on each side of the street. Now this is an eye witness, that the FBI and the Secret Service and she lives, she works there.

Mr. Belli You told this to the Warren Commission?

Mrs. Oswald Yes Sir. ✓

Mr. Belli All of this information?

Mrs. Oswald I have been. Yes (Sir. ✓)

Mr. Belli Then we have to depend upon the honesty

Mr. Crane Wait. Excuse me. Excuse me.

Mr. Belli of the Chief Justice as to whether he probably will report that.

Mr. Crane Excuse me. I wish to say, excuse me, I'm always fascinated to watch your tremendous investigative interest.

Mr. Belli Now. Now. Now. Take it easy there. Easy there.

Mr. Crane But, however, because of the problems of time in television, may I ask you to get where you were going with this (unintelligible). Without the whole

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Belli Two things that I think we can sum it up to. Number one, you did give everything. You did get everything, every bit of evidence that you knew and had to the Warren Commission. Didn't you?

Mrs. Oswald Yes. I don't think

Mr. Belli And if they give a report you'll, you'll abide by what they say.

Mrs. Oswald No sir. Not unless I see it.

Mr. Belli All right. Well that's the only point that I can make.

Mrs. Oswald Now I'll answer the question you've

Mr. Crane We will have to

Mrs. Oswald Been asking me and I have gone (unintelligible). Which is the legality you are an attorney. I have said no.

Mr. Crane Okay.

Mrs. Oswald As far as I know, I say no.

Mr. Crane Our time is up. Mrs. Oswald I can't thank you enough for being with us.

Mrs. Oswald Thank you. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Crane I hope that you feel you were treated fairly tonight.

Mrs. Oswald I must present my case and this is why I spend a few times. I just wished I could talk for hours and hours. Present the case exactly as it is.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane

Unfortunately, time is a problem in television Mel. I can't thank you enough for flying all the way in from San Francisco to be with us tonight.

Mr. Belli

Unintelligible.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

August 21, 1964

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Lee Harvey Oswald

The following is a verbatim transcription of that portion of the Les Crane Television Show, New York, on August 5, 1964, which featured as guest panelists Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, and Melvin Belli, former defense attorney for Jack Ruby:

Mr. Crane Mrs. Oswald, Mrs. Oswald, I think this probably is going to be the easiest interview to startoff my career. The obvious question, I think, on everybody's mind in the country and in this room at this time - Do you think he did it?

Mrs. Oswald No, of course not and this is why I thank my emotional stability and come on such programs as yours, Les, and the many, many programs I have been on, because I certainly have investigated this thoroughly and believe that my son, Lee Harvey Oswald, is innocent of the crime, the charge, against him, not only President Kennedy's assassination but the murder of Patrolman Tippit. I do not speak as a mother, I am a mother first of all, and it's because I am a mother, I guess, that I do take my stability emotionally and come before audiences, but I also speak as a human being. I have investigated this thoroughly and because I, myself, know more about Lee than any human being living.

Mr. Crane Let me ask you this. Let's go back in time a little bit. Since the assassination, there have been many, many articles in magazines, diaries have been published, letters allegedly written between yourself and Lee, letters

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Lee Harvey Oswald

between Lee and his wife, Marina, and so forth. What's your reaction to the publication of these diaries and this information about the boy, the man?

Mrs. Oswald

About the diary, I'm going to have to assume, like the rest of the public, that it is Lee's diary; however, all of Lee's letters to me and all of the correspondence is in longhand and if any of you have noticed, on particularly "Life" cover the diary is printed and there's many, many things in the diary that I know are incorrect. Now I'm going to cite one of those things that I, as a mother, would see that no one else could possibly see. My husband, Lee's father, was an insurance agent. This is the term that we used. I'm originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, so Lee has heard this all of his life that his father was an insurance agent and in the diary it says, "My father died before I was born and he was an insurance salesman." So you see just this little thing is most important. I am just assuming that this is Lee's diary. I have no proof.

Mr. Crane

But you're actually, you're casting doubt as to whether it is or isn't.

Mrs. Oswald

Yes, I am casting doubt because it would be very easy to compile such a diary through dates and so on and so forth from State Department correspondence, which by the way, two copies of State Department correspondence have been stolen from my home and also the original affidavits from the Red Cross, because I have an accident, were also stolen, but I would like to make this public now. The people that have stole this do not have the complete set and this is why I have them in my home. Naturally I keep everything in a safety deposit

Lee Harvey Oswald

box, all in the State of Texas, but I must have some things with me in order to investigate and research. So they do not have the complete array of State Department literature but I wish them success with whatever they want to do with this and I'm under the impression that part of this was used in the diary because the dates are so exact with the correspondence of the State Department.

Mr. Crane

Now there have been many speculations and many areas of investigation that people have written about your relationship with Lee, how you got along as a mother and son, and the picture that has been painted has been not too glowing.

Mrs. Oswald

Yes, you're so right there and you see I'm in the minority group. I believe that my son is innocent and it's much easier to believe that he's guilty and let's let him lie. Let's accept the fact because the awful truth is too awful maybe for us to understand. But I don't believe this. I believe the truth should be known. If my son is guilty, any other member of my family or any one club or even the President of the United States, or Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, or any high official, if I find them guilty, I, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, expect to let the public know. I will not cover up for anybody in authority.

Mr. Crane

Well, do you feel, you've been obviously exploring this thing, you've read all the books written about it, you've discussed it with lawyers, you've checked over the police records and the dates and times, you've looked at the photographs and there apparently is quite a bit of controversy ranging around the world, at least about some of these photographs.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald Yes, but I think there should be controversy. There's so much speculation, so much untruth and, Mr. Crane, you said that there was a bad picture of me and my relationship with Lee. Now I have had published in "Esquire" magazine sixteen letters that Lee wrote to me and anyone who has read Lee's original letters to his mother from Russia know what he thought about his mother. This is all together a different boy than has been exploited in the newspapers and the magazines. This is his letters to his mother and they were not doctored. This is the only true thing that has ever come out publicly and that has never been doctored.

Mr. Crane You've suggested to various people that you've spoken to that there's more to this business about him defecting to the Soviet Union and returning than meets the eye. What's your

Mrs. Oswald Well naturally. Lee was an agent of our United States Government.

Mr. Crane Well, you're making a statement now that has yet to be proven.

Mrs. Oswald Yes, I am but I can back up.

Mr. Crane Well, I assume you've testified before the Warren Commission.

Mrs. Oswald Yes, I have made this statement before the Warren Commission.

Mr. Crane Then I'm sure you're aware of the fact that one of the investigators assigned to this case and on the Warren Commission is Mr. Allen Dulles who was at that time, I believe, the head of the CIA, which seems to me as though he would know pretty much

Mrs. Oswald Yes, Mr. Allen Dulles, you see, you have two administrations in my son's life, when Lee

Lee Harvey Oswald

was in the service and when Lee went to Russia, he was in the younger administrative group and Allen Dulles was head of the CIA at that particular time and, of course, he is on the Warren Commission as most people know. And then you have the Kennedy administration that brought this boy back to the United States. So you have two political groups.

Mr. Crane

Well, what makes you think, obviously he never could have or never would have, so if he was, in fact, a secret agent for our government he never would have or could have told you that so what makes you feel that this is the case?

Mrs. Oswald

Well, because of many, many things that I have in black and white. It isn't that I think this. I feel sure that I know but, of course, I can never prove it; it would be up to the government to say whether Lee was an agent or not. I have made this statement many times and I will make it now. I have more circumstantial evidence in my possession, written evidence, that Lee was an agent of the United States Government than the Dallas police have that he murdered Patrolman Tippit or President Kennedy, this is for sure,

Mr. Crane

Again what I'm asking you for, you've made this statement boldly and flatly, Lee was an agent of the government. Give me a fact or two.

Mrs. Oswald

All right. I will start then at age 15½ years. Lee was a cadet in a Civil Air Patrol and this is the time that we had just arrived from New York back to New Orleans, which is our home town, and as soon as we reached there he became a member of the Civil Air Patrol at 15½ years. Now I have his picture in the uniform and at 16 years old Lee tried to join

Lee Harvey Oswald

the Marines and the reason why he did this, he quit school at age 16 two weeks before his birthday, there was a U.S. Marine Recruiting Officer who had influenced this boy while he was with the Civil Air Cadets to become a Marine at age 16. I will prove this. When I returned, I'm ahead of my story. Lee came into the place of business where I was and said, "Mother, I have quit school because I want to join the Marines." I said, "Lee, go home and wait for me. I will be off work in a little while." So when I arrived the Marine Recruiting Officer, in uniform, was at my apartment with my son. I said, "No, I will not let Lee join the Marines. He's too young at age 16." He said, "Well, Mrs. Oswald, a lot of boys do at age 16. The boy has quit school and this is what he wants to do." And I said, "No. He's too young and he may be sent overseas." He said, "Mrs. Oswald, there's less delinquency overseas actually than we have here." And I didn't go along with the idea. Now you mothers who have children age 15 and 16 years old that get a specific idea such as this wanting to join the Marines, you will realize it's an awfully hard thing to combat and control. So for three days Lee and I were at each other's throat about this because he wanted me to sign a birth certificate saying that he was 17 years old. So I spoke to the rest of the family and they all said, "Well, let him go."

Mr. Crane

Forgive me. I

Mrs. Oswald

Surely.

Mr. Crane

You know we're on television and there's a slight time problem here.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald Well, he did join the Marines then at age 17, and now the point I'm going to make. He did join the Marines at age 16, however, they sent him home because they found out that he was 16 years old.

Mr. Crane Yes ma'am.

Mrs. Oswald Well, between age 16 and 17 years old Lee lived to become a Marine. Now his brother, Robert, had just came home from the Marines and left the Marine manual at home and that is when Lee Harvey Oswald was reading his brother's Marine manual and also Karl Marx, which is communist literature. Now at age 17 on his birthday he did join the Marines and he was in the Marines for three years less three weeks when he got a dire need discharge.

Mr. Crane A dire need?

Mrs. Oswald A dire need discharge.

Mr. Crane That's what they call a hardship discharge?

Mrs. Oswald A hardship discharge because I had had an accident and I was destitute. I waited eight months before I told my son anything about it. I didn't want to worry him about it.

Mr. Crane All right.

Mrs. Oswald All right. So then Lee is only home three days when he goes to Russia. Now we're going to have to skip, as you say, I realize I'm on television. Let's go a little faster. So the boy goes to Russia and he's in Russia not quite three years. He meets a Russian girl but before he met the Russian girl he had gone to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and I was informed that Lee wanted to come home, that he had been to the Embassy in Moscow. Now I

Lee Harvey Oswald

had researched for twenty months trying to locate my son with no avail. This is the first contact. So the boy wants to come home to America, I'm informed. Then a few weeks after he marries the Russian girl.

Mr. Crane

Marina?

Mrs. Oswald

Marina. This doesn't make sense that a boy who has been in Russia for twenty months, then wants to come home, turns around and marries a Russian girl. Now the way I figure this is that he was told to marry this Russian girl. This is his job, part of his job. You must understand everything I say, that I think my son is an agent and I wish I had the time and the places to prove to you. I think that this boy was told to bring this girl back here to America so that they could get in with Russian people here. This is his work you must understand, as far as I am concerned. This is his work and his diary proves this. Part of this diary is proof that Lee was an agent. Also, he said when he denounced his country and the Russians wouldn't accept him, the thing to do is to (unintelligible), dunk it in hot water, take it out, put it in cold water. If this is a boy who has no country and is on a spot, he's not going to write in his diary how to commit suicide. This boy is trained what to do.

Mr. Crane

In other words you feel as though the United States Government, because they allowed him to come back to this country with his bride after defecting to the Soviet Union, this tends to prove something?

Mrs. Oswald

Well, Crane, it's not as simple as that but that's the basis of it. The thing is it's awfully hard to get out of Russia, as we know, and it's awfully hard to get a Russian girl out of Russia, and another thing, if this boy

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane

Wait, wait. Do you think that our government would make it easier to get a Russian girl out of Russia?

Mrs. Oswald

It's quite possible. This is a very, very long thing to go into but when this boy, then who was a, got out of the service ahead of time and didn't stay in the United States and went to Russia as a defector, let's say, and then he comes back and the government helps him to come back, not only money wise, which was the loan, but every way possible; I have the papers. I have the papers. They were always contacting me step by step and he comes back and he's not persecuted. Isn't it strange that our Marine Service would let a boy be, let's say, AWOL? He went to Russia when he got a dire need discharge, and then to come back and do nothing about this. How many servicemen can get out of the service ahead of time?

Mr. Crane

In other words you're saying,

Mrs. Oswald

And then go to Russia as a defector and come back to the United States without being questioned or put into the hoosegow? Answer that question for me.

Mr. Crane

Okay. We're going to come back with some more questions for you and Mr. Melvin Belli, who is a lawyer of great repute and an eminent authority in this case obviously for more discussion about this case in two minutes 15 seconds from right now.

Mr. Crane

My guests are Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald who was alleged to have slain President Kennedy and now may I introduce to you Mr. Melvin Belli. What I was going to say is Mr. Melvin Belli, noted

Lee Harvey Oswald

attorney from the grand and glorious city of San Francisco and (unintelligible) cry on each others shoulders for the next (unintelligible). Yes you are going back. After these next five days, I may be going back as well. Before I bring you in, I have one question, another one, that I've been dying to ask Mrs. Oswald. I heard a shocking quote attributed to you. I had understood, and there's no offense intended here

Mr. Oswald That's all right. I'm use to it.

Mr. Crane But I understood

Mrs. Oswald I'm in the minority group. I don't expect people to like me.

Mr. Crane All right. I understood that it was reported in a national magazine that you had requested an interview with President Johnson and this request was denied and the statement was attributed to you as follows: "Well, he's got some nerve not wanting to see me. If it wasn't for my son, he wouldn't be President." Did you say that?

Mrs. Oswald No, of course not. I have

Mr. Crane That was printed you know.

Mrs. Oswald Yes. No, I don't know about this part being printed. About the request to see President Kennedy

Mr. Crane Johnson.

Mrs. Oswald Johnson, this is absolutely false. The whole thing is false and this is what is deplorable with me. They seem to write and say anything they want. I am in the minority group. I am

Lee Harvey Oswald

the mother of the accused assassin of the United States and it's much easier to let this lie than to bring it out in the open.

Mr. Crane

Well, that's why we're here tonight. Another thing

Mrs. Oswald

And most of all I go on television to bring the things out in the open. I wish I could talk straight for three hours instead of being interrupted. I think I will give some pertinent information. There's no question I cannot bring out the true facts and the newspapers and the magazines won't give me true coverage. They lie. In "Redbook" there's a story that when I spoke before thousands of people in New York City at Town Hall that I was paid \$5,000.00. I want you to know and the audience listening that I was paid transportation and \$100.00 for expenses.

Mr. Crane

I'd like to add at this point that Mrs. Oswald is not being paid for her appearance on this program as well. We brought her to New York and we will pay her expenses and return.

Mrs. Oswald

I do not accept money for this appearance. I expect transportation and hotel bills.

Mr. Crane

One point that you touched on which is quite, I think that's reasonable. One point that you touched on which is the most exciting thing about all of this to me, I want you people here and I want you people at home to think about this for just one second, we are sitting here in the studios of a major broadcasting company of America and we are talking to the mother of a man who, it is alleged, assassinated our President not too long ago. This is being

Lee Harvey Oswald

broadcast coast to coast. I wonder if anybody here thinks this would be taking place in any other country in the world today except ours. That's pretty wonderful isn't it? Pretty exciting. All right, one last question and then to Mr. Pelli. Have you ever, did you ever see Jack Ruby before the time that you saw the pictures of him in the Dallas jail?

Mrs. Oswald No, but I saw a picture of Jack Ruby on November 23, shown to me by an FBI agent.

Mr. Crane Wait a minute. November 23?

Mrs. Oswald Yes, before my son was murdered. A picture of Jack Ruby

Mr. Crane That's the day before.

Mrs. Oswald The day before.

Mr. Crane The day before Jack Ruby

Mrs. Oswald The day before my son was murdered while all in Dallas, the FBI and all of the authorities were saying that they had a threat on Lee Harvey Oswald's life and the Dallas police were supposedly to have been told by the FBI that they had these threats. At 6:30 on November 23 at the Executive Inn where I was with my daughter-in-law an FBI man tried to show the picture to my daughter-in-law. It wasn't meant for me but I wouldn't let my daughter-in-law see the picture because she had this young baby and we had been moved from place to place for the last few days and I said, "I'm awfully sorry but you can't talk to her unless we have an attorney." And then he showed me the picture of Jack Ruby.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mr. Crane What you're claiming is that they showed you a picture of Jack Ruby before Ruby shot your son.

Mrs. Oswald On November 23, 6:30 in the afternoon at the Inn of the Executives.

Mr. Crane Well, what do you know about that?

Mrs. Oswald Where we couldn't talk to a lawyer or anybody.

Mr. Belli I think it's a mother's duty to do what this mother is doing today to defend her son.

Mrs. Oswald Thank you.

Mr. Belli I've never prosecuted and I can't accuse this mother but I can say in answer to some of the things that she's raised here that, forgive me for saying this, I think she's errant. I think she's completely errant. Jack Ruby did not know Lee Harvey Oswald before the shooting, of that I am certain.

Mrs. Oswald No. I am certain that he didn't know Lee. I didn't say he knew Lee before the shooting. I'm saying that there was a threat on my son's life before the shooting and the authorities got wind that it was Jack Ruby who was going to do the shooting.

Mr. Belli I wonder if Mrs. Oswald will take, or may I ask her directly, will take the word of the Warren Commission as to what they say happened?

Mrs. Oswald No. I won't take the word of anyone on this because I was shown a picture of Jack Ruby and this is for sure.

Mr. Belli But I mean as to who did what and who shot who and who was responsible. Would you take the word of the Warren Commission on this?

Lee Harvey Oswald

Mrs. Oswald On who shot who? You mean if Lee Harvey Oswald shot the President?

Mr. Belli Yes.

Mrs. Oswald No sir, unless I am shown the evidence. I'm a very reasonable person and my son could be guilty. He is a human being.

Mr. Belli You see it's a very difficult thing.

Mrs. Oswald But I want proof.

Mr. Belli To accuse the mother or ask the mother to say a son is guilty and I don't think that anyone

Mr. Crane Nobody's asked her to do that.

Mr. Belli I don't think anyone would do that, but I do say if you ask me directly with reference to some of these hearsay statements and I say that respectfully, of course, with Mrs. Oswald, that from what I know of the case, and I must now say that I think that I know as much about it as, in legal evidence, as anyone living including those who were on the Warren Commission and I know that there was no connection between Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald and from everything I know, the mother's son was the responsible party.

Mr. Crane But let me ask you

Mr. Belli That made no differences in my representation of Jack Ruby, of course.

Mr. Crane Let me ask you a few questions now.

Mr. Belli Yes sir.

Mr. Crane As you probably know there have been photographs shown around the world, not too prominently in this country, for example the alleged murder weapon. I've seen pictures of this rifle with

Lee Harvey Oswald

the telescopic sight as published in American magazines. I've seen the pictures of the exact picture posed with the same fellow, in theory the exact same gun without the telescopic sight on it and the assumption you might draw from this is that the telescopic sight was added to the photograph prior to its being released.

Mr. Belli

Well, we come to the ultimate conclusion that there must be some finders of fact in this democratic system of ours and I think that we picked the greatest finder of fact and the most objective man with the utmost integrity, our Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He went down, he talked to Jack Ruby. He did all of the investigation which a human being could do. We're never certain on these things but I would say as certain as we can be, the person we're talking about did shoot the President and I know that Jack Ruby did shoot the son.

Mr. Crane

Another question. I don't want to put you on trial, obviously I'm out of my

Mr. Belli

And I'm reluctant, of course, to prosecute. I've never been a prosecutor. I've defended.

Mr. Crane

What I want

(unintelligible).

There has probably been more armchair generally, that's not the right term, the armchair lawyering of your conduct at the Ruby trial than any other trial in recent time and one of the points raised.

Mr. Belli

If they were all there to try the case we'd still be trying it, but the thing they say too (unintelligible).