

Panel Certain Oswald Tried to Kill Walker

Washington Bureau of The News
WASHINGTON — The Warren Commission said Sunday it is convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald tried to kill Edwin A. Walker as the controversial former general

prepared an income tax return in his Dallas home April 10, 1963. The commission said, however, that it does not believe Oswald planned to kill former Vice-President Richard Nixon in Dallas.

The commission said it considered the possibility also that Oswald planned to shoot Lyndon B. Johnson with a revolver when he visited Dallas April 22, 1963. But, its report said, there is not conclusive evidence on this point.

A note, photos of the Walker home, ballistics tests, and statements by Oswald's widow convinced the commission that the 24-year-old Marxist fired the rifle shot which narrowly missed Walker.

MRS. MARINA OSWALD found the note in their Neely Street apartment the night a sniper shot at Walker. An FBI agent, James C. Cadigan, told the commission that the note was in her husband's handwriting.

The commission said the note "appeared to be the work of a man expecting to be killed, or imprisoned, or to disappear."

One paragraph stated, "You can either throw out or give my clothing, etc., away. Do not keep these."

The final paragraph said, "If I am alive and taken prisoner, the city jail is located at the end of the bridge through which we always passed on going to the city."

(The commission said Oswald was apparently referring to the Dallas County jail and that "the bridge" was probably a reference to the Commerce Street viaduct or the Triple Underpass.)

WHEN OSWALD returned home late that night, the commission said, he admitted to his wife that he had shot at Walker and added that he "had been planning the attempt for two months."

The commission said Mrs. Oswald testified her husband stated that he waited until the night of April 10 "because he had heard that there was to be a gathering at the church next door to Walker's house on that evening (and) he indicated he wanted more people in the vicinity at the time of the attempt so that his arrival and departure would not attract great attention."

Mrs. Oswald told the commission also that her husband showed her photos of the Walker home and a map of the area.

The commission said it has five photos found among Oswald's possession and an FBI expert determined that at least one

was taken with a camera owned by the Marxist.

TWO PHOTOS pictured the rear of the Walker home and a third showed an alley entrance of his driveway.

"An examination of certain construction work appearing in the background of this photograph revealed that the picture was taken between March 8 and March 12, 1963, and most probably on either March 9 or March 10," the commission report stated illustrating the thoroughness of the investigation.

The report noted that Oswald purchased the money order for his mail-order rifle on March 12. This would indicate he was thinking of killing Walker—not President Kennedy—when he ordered the weapon.

The other photos showed railroad tracks.

The commission quoted Mrs. Oswald as saying she asked her husband what he had done with his rifle after shooting at Walker and Oswald replied that he "had buried it in the ground or hidden it in some bushes and that he also mentioned a railroad track in this connection."

THE COMMISSION said Mrs. Oswald added that her husband

retrieved the rifle several days later and returned it to their apartment.

(Dallas investigators had questioned how Oswald could have taken a bus or hitch-hiked to his apartment the night of the shooting without arousing suspicion if he carried a rifle.)

Neither the Dallas City-County Crime Lab nor FBI could say definitely whether a badly mutilated slug in the Walker home was fired by the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle which later killed President Kennedy, the commission noted.

It quoted Joseph D. Nicol, superintendent of the Illinois Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, as saying that his independent study led him to believe "that there is a fair probability" that the Walker bullet was fired from the assassination rifle.

The commission said Mrs. Oswald told it that, a few days before her husband left Dallas for New Orleans on April 24, 1963, he "put on a good suit... and took a pistol."

THE RUSSIAN-BORN wife said she asked for an explanation and Oswald told her, "Nixon is coming. I want to go and have a look." She said he also told her that he "would use the pistol if the opportunity arose."

Then, the commission related, Mrs. Oswald said she reminded her husband of his promise after the Walker incident that he would not try to kill anyone else.

It quoted her as saying, "I remember that I held him. We actually struggled for several minutes and then he quieted down."

The commission noted that Nixon was not in Dallas at the time, but Johnson made a widely publicized visit to the city April 23. It said Mrs. Oswald may have misunderstood her husband and he may have been referring to Johnson.

THE REPORT said Mrs. Oswald speculated that Oswald did not intend to kill either Nixon or Johnson, but only wanted to torment her.

She told the commission: "It might have been that he was just trying to test me. He was the kind of person who could try and wound somebody in that way. Possibly he didn't want to go out at all, but was just doing this all as a sort of joke—not really as a joke, but rather to simply wound me, to make me feel bad."