

On January 22, I sent night letters to Chief Justice Earl Warren and J. Lee Rankin, both members of the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy. Imporing each to allow my son, Lee Harvey Oswald, to have representation by counsel so that all witnesses, including my son's wife, Marina, be cross-examined.

I also sent a telegram to President Lyndon B. Johnson informing him of my action. Of the three men, Mr. J. Lee Rankin answered. I will now read the letter:

"Dear Mrs. Oswald:

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of January 22, 1964 requesting that your attorney be permitted to cross-examine any witnesses whose testimony is taken by this Commission, and in this instance, the testimony of Mrs. Marina Oswald. Mrs. Oswald will be entitled to have present an attorney of her own choosing.

For your information I enclose a copy of my letter of January 23, 1964 to your attorney, Mr. Mark Lane, who made a similar request in your behalf.

Sincerely, J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel."

I wish to make a direct appeal through a public statement to President Lyndon B. Johnson. I hope my statement will be accepted in the spirit in which I offer it -- namely, in the name of justice and our American way of life -- "A man is innocent until proven guilty".

Dear Mr. President:

I can now address you as such because of the tragic death of your dear friend and late President, John F. Kennedy, who was shot down by an assassin's bullet on November 22, 1963, in the city of Dallas. I can understand your grief and I also sympathize with you. However, On November 24, 1963, in Dallas because of a different type of tragedy. I find myself the mother of the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, who was tried and convicted within a few hours without trial or benefit of counsel.

We are both human beings. We breathe the same free air, the right to think, and to question what we would consider an injustice against another human being.

I sincerely hope you will be so kind as to consider my request, thereby helping me to continue to have faith in our American way of life.

Respectfully,

Marguerite C. Oswald
Mother of
Lee Harvey Oswald

PRESS CONFERENCE
January 29, 1964
Dallas, Texas