

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mrs. Oswald: Note Could Break Case

John F. Kennedy

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The mother of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald said yesterday that an investigation into a note kept secret for almost 13 years could "break the (Kennedy) assassination case."

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald was referring to a note delivered by her son to FBI offices in Dallas several weeks before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

The note warned agents to stop questioning Oswald's Russian-born wife. The letter actually threatened the life of one agent, said former FBI agent Joe Schott.

Schott labeled the "letter incident a sort of ticking bomb a lot of people knew about."

"It's logical to me that the FBI wanted to get this incident off the books before someone else did," Schott said. "I strongly suspect the FBI leaked the story."

FBI DIRECTOR Clarence Kelley Saturday said the note, which lay in an agent's work basket with no action taken on it until after the assassination, was subsequently destroyed.

Schott speculated that the note was destroyed because lower level FBI agents were "all so scared of (the late FBI Director J. Edgar) Hoover."

The former FBI agent said Oswald's letter "strongly refutes the conspiracy of the assassination." "The way he came up alone to the FBI office with his note all by himself marks him for what I always thought he was, arrogant... a loner," Schott said.

Mrs. Oswald, however, said her son's action was courageous.

"IF HE WERE such a louse and a killer, according to psychological studies, he would have just picked up the phone and called the FBI," she said. "My son had the courage of a one-man army and he wouldn't hesitate one minute to go to the FBI and face them. He would not just pick up a phone and make an anonymous call."

Mrs. Oswald said FBI agents should be called on the carpet for destroying records after Kennedy was slain.

The crux of the story is that the FBI is guilty of knowing something and destroying



MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD

it," said Mrs. Oswald. "This could lead to a whole new Watergate-type affair."

"If you called in all the FBI men involved in Lee Harvey Oswald's life and questioned them, one thing would lead to another and it would probably break the assassination case."

IN RECENT YEARS there has been a renewed interest in the assassination and polls have indicated that a majority of the American people do not subscribe to the Warren Commission's "lone assassin" theory.

Mrs. Oswald, 68, said she is living on welfare while continuing to work on clearing her son's name.

She said Oswald was upset and frightened at the time of the letter because of the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
 Fort Worth
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Star-Telegram Photos

JOE SCHOTT

FBI's questioning of his wife, Marina.

Schott, author of a new book dealing with his experiences in the FBI, said it was standard procedure at that time for agents to question persons who had come from the Soviet Union.

"Schott is just trying to push his new book," countered Mrs. Oswald. "If you had a wife who didn't speak English very well and she had just had a new baby, wouldn't you be upset?"

SCHOTT, WHO SAID he is glad the existence of the letter has become public, said he has thought about the letter over the years.

He said the letter basically was a threat against FBI agent Jim Hosty, who had been trying to interview Oswald and his wife.

"The way I heard it, Oswald threatened to kill Hosty if Hosty tried to talk to Marina again," said Schott.

Schott said Hosty and another agent read the letter and Hosty put just put the note in his workbox and it was still there on the date of the assassination.

"I don't know if Shanklin (J. Gordon Shanklin who recently retired as agent in charge of the Dallas FBI office) ever knew about it before or after the assassination," Schott added.

He went on to say, however, that the note became common knowledge among FBI agents in this area.

Both Schott and Kelley said Oswald's letter could not have forewarned of the assassination.