

THE DALLAS MYSTERY

Large Questions Remain Unanswered About Oswald And Ruby Following Kennedy's Assassination

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DALLAS, Nov. 30 — The weight of evidence seemed quickly clear to Dallas law enforcement authorities; Lee Harvey Oswald conceived and carried out the assassination of President Kennedy Nov. 22 all by himself.

But he never confessed, and his murder at the hands of Jack Ruby last Sunday sealed his lips and raised a billowing cloud of doubt that he had plotted alone.

Speculation in the foreign press shows that the world and the country are far from satisfied that there was no conspiracy in last weekend's violent events in Dallas.

Did the 24-year-old "Marxist" know Ruby, operator of a strip-tease club here?

Did Ruby shoot the handcuffed Oswald in the Dallas police station to silence him? Or was Ruby telling the truth when he said he did it to avenge the death of the President?

Did the assassination result from a Communist plot? Was either the Soviet Union or Cuba, the countries to which Oswald had just sought visas, involved?

Question of Money

Where did Oswald, presumably broke, get the money for his recent trip to Mexico City? And for an automobile and gasoline?

What are Ruby's political views? What are his present underworld associations? Do either of these facets of the boisterous nightclub owner's life bear on the case?

If Ruby was so patriotic that he could not bear the outrage of the President's slaying, why did he skip the opportunity to join the crowd that cheered Mr. Kennedy as he rode through downtown Dallas in the ill-fated motorcade?

Can Oswald's actions be explained adequately simply as those of an unstable malcontent with an ingrained hatred for authority?

An army of investigators here and elsewhere is seeking the answers to these and other questions. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken over the principal detective role in piecing the strands together, and its first report is expected next week. Other inquiries will follow.

Evidence is massive that Oswald, who moved to Russia in 1959 and sought to renounce his American citizenship, was the sniper who killed the President from the sixth floor window in a building on the motorcade route.

But he steadfastly denied it through long hours of interrogation undergone without the aid of counsel.

Despite his Marine service, a minority of the experts who have commented doubt that he could have fired three accurate shots in five seconds with such deadly aim with a cheap Italian bolt-action rifle at a distance of about one hundred yards.

But one unanswered question always leads to another. If the slight young assassin were working for others, would they not have provided him with much better equipment than the \$12.78 gun he got from a Chicago mail order house?

Near Kennedy

And might he actually have been shooting at Gov. John B. Connally of Texas, who was close to Mr. Kennedy in the Presidential car and was hit with the second bullet?

Oswald had written last year to Mr. Connally from Minsk, Russia, bitterly protesting a belated undesirable discharge from the Marine Corps that had just come to his notice. He believed Mr. Connally to be Secretary of the Navy, and he said he would "employ all means" to correct the "injustice."

Most of Oswald's acquaintances picture him as a social misfit and loner, but that does not rule out suspicious associations.

He expressed his political views in public last summer by passing out pro-Castro leaflets of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans.

Yet, when he sought swift action on visas in Mexico City two months ago for Cuba and Russia, he was turned down. And in New York City, the national chairman of the Fair Play Committee said he had never heard of Oswald.

In Moscow, Oswald wrote out an affidavit saying "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic." Soviet officials allowed him to remain as an alien, but refused to grant him citizenship.

Nor were they eager to his fascination for weapons by allowing him to own a gun. Soon he was ready to return. As soon as he got to Fort Worth last year, he hired a public stenographer and dictated a long report critical of life in Russia.

It is difficult to imagine that any foreign government would employ a man of Oswald's uncertain tendencies and limited education and abilities as an agent to assassinate the President of the United States even

if a foreign power might have that aim.

More conceivable, perhaps, is that an extremist group in this country might seek the death of Mr. Kennedy. But there is no evidence yet revealed that provides more than the most tenuous links between Oswald and extremist groups.

He corresponded with the Communist Party of the U.S.A. in New York for information. He played a lonely role with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He read The Worker. He subscribed to The Militant, a Trotskyite publication. But he also checked out library books critical of Communism, along with books on President Kennedy and the assassination of Huev Long.

What of Ruby?

What of Ruby? He said he never had heard of Oswald before the assassination. A stripper at his burlesque club said she found him crying at the

Oswald, and that Ruby grasped the only logical opportunity to do it. But speculation linking the two men is fragile.

A performer at the Carousel, Ruby's strip club, thought he recalled seeing Oswald "eight or nine days" before the assassination. A dancer, who claims a good memory for faces, said he was wrong.

She said Ruby worked out with barbells at his bachelor apartment. He often did the same at the Y.M.C.A. here, where Oswald stayed briefly after arriving last Oct. 4 from his week-long trip to Mexico City.

After the assassination, Oswald went from his place of employment, from whence the fatal shots came, to his rooming house, then started walking in the direction of Ruby's new apartment.

While there is no proof that this was his destination, he was only a few blocks from there when he was stopped by Patrolman J. D. Tippett.

Changed Directions

He killed the policeman, another mass of evidence shows, and fled in another direction, toward the Texas theater, where he was captured.

If Ruby has any strong political views, they do not seem to be known to his associates.

If he was a Kennedy fan or supporter, he did not show it by turning out November 22 to see him.

Whether Ruby retains gangland associations may be brought out in his murder trial in January.

A precarious financial situation that made it necessary for Oswald's family to live with friends while he eked out a living on unemployment compensation and a series of \$50 a week temporary jobs raises the question of how he got to Mexico and why the police found \$150 in the Dallas room where he last lived.

Possibly he hitch-hiked to Laredo and Mexico City from New Orleans in September, but on the way back he stopped in Alice, Texas, to seek employment at a radio station. The manager said he was driving a car then.

Many curious events occurred in the last weeks of Oswald's life. While there is no revealed evidence that anyone else was involved in the assassination, the disturbing doubts the events raised will not be dissipated until rumor is checked out and every relevant fact pieced together by competent authorities.

Rumors are rampant that the action was intended to silence waiting for the answers.



Pointier in The Detroit News "The American image."

club two hours after the President's death. She said he was full of expressions of concern over the loss to the Kennedy family.

Ruby's friends and relatives here paint him as a highly emotional man who might have gone out of his mind and taken it on himself to kill the killer to avenge the First Family.

He has been described as a hot-headed police buff, who once associated with Chicago gangland figures, and as a man who might act on impulse.

But he didn't act until two days after the assassination, when Oswald was being transferred from the city to the county jail. The transfer plan was well publicized, and the killing could have been closely planned.

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THE EVENTS IN DALLAS



Shanks in The Buffalo Evening News "Up in smoke."



Shanks in The Des Moines Register "It could have been many American cities besides Dallas."