

STILL HAS FAITH

DN-11/2

Suspect's Mother Says 'Backs Turned on Me'

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The mother of a suspect in the slaying of President Kennedy said Friday:

"They all turned their backs on me before and they will turn their backs on me again, but my faith will see me through."

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald apparently was referring to the treatment she received when her son defected to Russia in 1959.

Officers held the son, Lee H. Oswald, 24. He denied the slaying.

Mrs. Oswald, a short woman with salt-and-pepper gray hair, called the Fort Worth Star-Telegram after learning that her son had been arrested. She asked that she be taken to Dallas to see her son.

She said she had no friends. Reporters Bob Schieffer and Bill Foster picked her up at a small frame structure on the city's West Side about 3 p.m. and drove her to Dallas.

"I want to hear him tell me that he did it," Schieffer quoted her as saying.

He said Mrs. Oswald did not mention the death of the President. She cried quietly and her talk was punctuated with sobs, Schieffer said.

He said her only reference to the incident was this question:

"Do they think he did it?"

Mrs. Oswald wore the white uniform of a practical nurse,

which she said was her current occupation.

She did not divulge her age. Schieffer reported that Mrs. Oswald made these statements as they drove to Dallas:

"Ever since he (Oswald) came back from Russia he has been persecuted. I was persecuted. My friends, if that's what you call them, turned their backs.

"I'm so worried about my son's wife. She is Russian. They have a small baby. She can't speak English.

"If I didn't want to see my son and his wife I would have stayed at home to see how many of my 'friends' come to see me now.

"But I know the answer—it would be as before.

"I don't know what my son was doing in Russia. I know what the papers said. But nobody ever gave him a chance to prove his innocence. When they said he had gone to Russia that was all they wanted to know.

"He doesn't come around anymore. I haven't seen him in a year. He never said why he doesn't come to the house, but I know.

"It's because he doesn't want them to persecute me. He knows how they've treated me. He wanted to shoulder it himself."

Schieffer said the trio stopped only once en route to Dallas. Mrs. Oswald asked for a soft drink, saying she wanted to take a tranquilizer. She did.



—Associated Press Wirephoto.

Mrs. Marina Oswald (left), wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, held as a suspect in the assassination of President Kennedy, leaves the Dallas city jail Friday night with her mother-in-law, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, after being questioned by police. The suspect's wife carries baby and walks behind her daughter. It was not known if she was permitted to see her husband.