

# President's Murder Charged to Oswald

(The following story was prepared from material gathered by Dallas News Staff Writers James Ewell, Hugh Aynesworth and John Rutledge.)

Lee H. Oswald, an admitted "pro-Castro" man who once lived in and sought Russian citizenship, late Friday night was charged with murdering President Kennedy.

Oswald, 24, earlier had been charged with the pistol-slaying of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippitt.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade accepted the murder charges from Police Chief Jesse Curry and Homicide Detective Capt. Will Fritz shortly before midnight Friday.

Justice of the Peace David Johnston, with whom the charges were filed, ordered Oswald held without bond in both cases.

Curry emphasized that Oswald had made no confession to either murder.

He and Wade stated jointly that the charges were filed — particularly in the death of the President — based on physical evidence at hand.

Curry declined to state what

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physical evidence police had in hand.

Wade said he expects the case to go to the Dallas County grand jury at mid-week. "There are some pieces of information that need to be picked up," Wade said.

U.S. Atty. Barefoot Sanders of the Northern District of Texas said late Friday night there is no

specific federal statute covering the assassination of the President of the United States.

"However, there may be other federal criminal statutes involved here and we are studying them," Sanders stated.

Oswald was identified by an eye-witness as the man who shot down Tippitt, 39, in the 400 block of East 10th in Oak Cliff shortly after 1 p.m.

And Sheriff's Deputy Roger D. Craig, 27, identified Oswald as the man he saw running from the Texas School Book Depository building at Elm and Houston, from where President Kennedy's assassin fired a high powered rifle.

There were conflicting reports of how Oswald left the scene of

the President's slaying. Homicide officers said they had a report Oswald got on a bus. A woman passenger said she mentioned the slaying to a man resembling Oswald and he "just smiled."

Meanwhile, Craig said he saw Oswald whistle down a white Rambler driven by a Negro man. The auto picked him up at the Elm Street curb and sped westward to Stemmons Freeway.

Oswald, who was cornered and wrestled out of the Texas Theater, 231 W. Jefferson, about 2 p.m., still has admitted nothing about the President's death or the patrolman's slaying.

The Dallas News learned from very reliable sources that the FBI had brought a portable polygraph (lie detector) machine to Dallas police headquarters Friday night.

Why was Patrolman Tippitt shot about 1:15 p.m.? Police officials were unsure whether it was the all points bulletin describing the President's slayer that caused Tippitt to stop Oswald as he hurriedly walked along the Oak Cliff street.

Tippitt made no radio call to headquarters telling them of what

he was going. Dispatchers learned of his slaying when an unidentified man called on the patrolman's radio and said: "A policeman has been shot. He's lying out here in the street. I think he's dead."

Simultaneously dispatchers received a telephone call with the same information.

Police arrived at the East 10th location to find the patrolman sprawled near the left hand front door of his squad car.

Witnesses to the shooting described a bushy-haired man about 30 as Tippitt's slayer. They said he wore a white cotton jacket. He had run from the area. One man said he saw the suspect stick a gun in his belt.

Mrs. Helen Markham, who was waiting for a bus, told of the cold-blooded shooting:

"I saw him shoot the officer as he looked him in the eyes.

"I ran to the officer to see if I could help him, and he (the assailant) just looked at me and ran," said the cafe employe, who lives at 328 E. Ninth.

She said Tippitt pulled his car to the curb to stop the assailant

as he walked east on 10th Street.

"He walked over to the police car, leaned in the window and said something to the policeman," she recounted. "Then the officer got out of the car, and began walking around the back of it to say something to him.

"All of a sudden they stopped, looked at each other and he pulled out his gun and shot the officer," she said.

Mrs. Markham said she had no trouble recalling what the assailant looked like: "I thought he was going to kill me, too, and you really look good at a time like that."

Police converged on the area and trailed the slayer to the 400 block of East Jefferson. They saw him dart between a service station and a drive-in grocery. Police, sheriff's deputies and FBI agents armed with shotguns continued a zig-zag trail westward on Jefferson.

Then came the report from a cashier at the Texas Theater that a man acting suspiciously had just entered the movie house.

Policemen entered front and rear doors.

Patrolman N. M. McDonald started up the lower floor aisle from the rear door. Only five persons were in the main part of the theater.

Then McDonald spotted a man sitting on the third row from the back. McDonald said as he drew