

LEE H. OSWALD LEFTIST, DENIES SHOOTING; HELD IN DALLAS CELL

11/23-52
Questioned 10 Hours
— Admits Being
Building at Time
Assassination

By RICHARD DUDMAN

Staff Correspondent of
Post-Dispatch

DALLAS, Tex., Nov. 23—Lee Harvey Oswald, a 24-year-old wing extremist, was charged last night with first degree murder in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

He was held overnight without food under heavy guard in a fifth floor cell in the Dallas municipal building to await further questioning today.

The formal charge accuses Oswald of murdering the President with malice aforethought. It accuses him, in effect, of being the sniper who ambushed Mr. Kennedy from a carefully chosen vantage point at a sixth floor window of a textbook warehouse on the President's motorcade route through Dallas.

Admits Being Communist

Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry said today that Oswald had readily admitted he is a Communist.

Curry said the Texas uniformed officers in questioning tonight that he was "a member of the Communist party." Curry said he did not know whether Oswald was a card-carrying member of the party.

"Last year Oswald said on a New Orleans television panel that he was not a Communist but was a Marxist," Curry said, "but normally, Oswald has never drawn any distinction between the two."

Curry said police never had Oswald listed on their suspicious list.

"We have another man working in that same building who has been listed in our sensitive files since 1955," Curry said. Police were seeking this man for questioning.

Oswald insisted that he is not the assassin of President Kennedy, an officer said today. "I think I got some good results from questioning Oswald," Curry said.

There was no explanation from police as to what the paraffin tests would have shown because Oswald fired at least one shot in the killing of a patrolman and attempted a second shot when arrested. A rifle was used to kill the President.

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Oswald wrote a letter to the former Secretary of the Navy James Connally—the present Governor of Texas—asking Connally to arrange the former Marine's honorable discharge from the Navy. Connally refused the request.

The date of the letter is not known but it was written when Oswald was in Russia and presumably was sent to Connally when he was President Kennedy's Secretary of the Navy. Oswald returned about a year ago from a three-year stay in the Soviet Union.

Connally was wounded in the fire that killed Mr. Kennedy yesterday.

Letter in Record

The Department of Defense disclosed today that the hand written letter from Oswald to Connally was in the personnel files of Oswald which were filed in the Military Records Center in St. Louis.

This development could pose a question of whether Connally rather than Mr. Kennedy might have been the primary target if the government's charge that Oswald did the shooting is maintained.

Oswald kept telling reporters he did not kill President Kennedy. "I did not kill anyone," he said. "I know what this is all about."

When first arrested last night in a suburban theater four miles from the assassination scene, Oswald refused to give his name or answer any other questions almost continuously for 10 hours. Later he acknowledged being

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an employe of the Texas School Depository, where the rifle had been kept. Oswald was seen in the building at the time of the shooting. He complained repeatedly to the police that he had not been permitted to get a lawyer.

"I asked for legal representation, but they won't let me have any," he said.

No witnesses have been produced thus far who saw him fire the three shots from a high-powered foreign rifle with a telescopic sight found at the warehouse window. One of the shots mortally wounded the president, and another seriously wounded Connally.

No Fingerprint Evidence

Fingerprints on the murder weapon were either nonexistent or too smudged to be useful, police said.

They arrested him first as a suspect in the killing of J. D. Tippett, a police patrolman, 30 minutes after the shots were fired at the President. He now is charged with first degree murder in that death also.

The textbook warehouse was sighted immediately as the sniper's hideout. At least two police officers and a cameraman in the motorcade, looking for the source of the shots, saw the muzzle of a rifle being pulled back through the window.

As the President's automobile raced to Parkland Hospital with the wounded men and their wives, police dashed to the building to search for the assassin. Others in the building pointed to the sixth floor window, where, apparently, they, too, had seen the rifle.

Used Cartridges Found

In a little-used corner of the sixth floor, police found cartons of books pulled near the window, partly shielding it from the rest of the floor. The rifle was there, as well as three used cartridges and some chicken bones where the killer had waited.

The book firm's president Jack D. Cason, said today that Mr. Kennedy's assassin could have spent as long as four days in the sixth floor dead storage area of the building.

"Sometimes three or four days go by without anybody going to the sixth floor to get anything," Cason said.

After the shooting yesterday, police sealed off the building and began a thorough search, thinking the assassin was still inside.

A half-hour later, patrolman

Tippett was shot and killed near his police car, about four miles from the motorcade shooting.

Police learned of Tippett's death when a passer-by called headquarters on Tippett's police radio.

A woman who had been waiting for a bus said she had seen

Tippett stop at the curb to speak to a pedestrian. She said Tippett got out of the car and the pedestrian took out a pistol and shot him.

Chasing the assailant, police first were directed on false leads to two furniture warehouses and a library. Finally a shoe repairman told them, "The man you are looking for is in the Texas Theater." The theater is about four blocks from where the officer was killed.

Resemblance Indicated
By that time, the officers had been told by police radio that the killer of the officer bore a strong resemblance to a man thought to have fired the shots at the President.

About 20 police officers converged on the theater. An usher pointed out Oswald, seated alone in the third row from the back. They said that as they approached, with the theater lights turned on, Oswald jumped to his feet, shouted, "This is it" and reached to pull a pistol from his belt. They grappled with him, subduing him after two officers had suffered twisted ankles and a third a blow on the head.

Examination of the weapon afterward showed that it had misfired. The chambers of the pistol, a snub-nosed .38 caliber revolver, were all full. A witness later told of having seen the suspect stop and reload on his way to the theater.

Arraigned After 6 Hours
Justice of the Peace David Johnson first arraigned Oswald on a charge of first degree murder in Tippett's death. That was at 7:30 p.m., after six hours of interrogation. Johnson said that time that Oswald wanted legal counsel and would be allowed to have it.

Both cases are expected to be presented to the grand jury about the middle of next week.

Some discrepancies remained today in accounts of the shooting of the President and the Governor. Eyewitness accounts of the stocking incident often vary widely.

Mrs. Connally said the first

not hit the President and the second hit her husband. Patrolman J. M. Chaney, escorting the presidential car on a motorcycle to the right rear fender, said the first shot caused the President to look back to the left and the second "shattered his face."

Two Wounds Mentioned
Physicians who attended the President at Parkland hospital said nothing about injuries to the President's face. They mentioned only two wounds—a bullet hole in the throat, below the Adams apple, and a massive wound on the right side of the back of the head.

The President actually was hit twice, it was learned today in Washington.

An authoritative White House source said one bullet entered the President's head and another penetrated the "neck and chest."

Previously there had been some question whether Mr. Kennedy was hit once or twice.

Mrs. Connally said the President and Mrs. Kennedy, in the back seat, and she and the Governor, in jump seats ahead of them, had just been commenting on the enthusiastic crowd that had welcomed them in downtown Dallas.

Their car had just emerged from the downtown area and turned down an approach to Dallas's "triple underpass" at the time.

She recalled telling Mr. Kennedy, "you can't say Dallas isn't friendly to you today."

At the next moment, she said, she heard the first report and saw her husband turn toward the President. Mr. Kennedy had been hit and slumped to the floor of the automobile.

Then she heard the second and third shots, and her husband slumped down in his seat.

The two wives huddled over their husband's bodies to protect them and seek shelter for themselves from the unknown sniper.

The Secret Service man driving the machine grabbed the radio telephone and told other leading cars in the motorcade, "let's go straight to the nearest hospital." They reached the Parkland emergency entrance in about two minutes.

Mrs. Kennedy cradled her husband's head in her lap as the machine raced to the hospital at 70 miles an hour. A reporter following close said the President appeared to be completely motionless and had one or both

hands over his face. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson's automobile was immediately following that of the President. The Vice President alked into the hospital while a stretcher was being wheeled for the president, Johnson raised one arm against his chest in a gesture that gave rise to a rumor that he had suffered another heart attack. The report was denied and appeared to be unfounded.

Mrs. Kennedy Helps
Three or four Secret Service men lifted the President onto the stretcher. Mrs. Kennedy helped them and walked beside the stretcher into the emergency room. His body remained motionless.

Connally was left unattended for a time, clutching his chest in apparent pain, while the President was being taken inside. The Governor later was helped in. Dr. Malcolm Perry, attending surgeon at the hospital, examined the President within a few seconds of Mr. Kennedy's arrival in the emergency room.

"It was apparent that the President had sustained a lethal wound," he said. "He was critically ill and moribund (near death)," Dr. Perry said.

Eight to 10 physicians attended the President. They tried resuscitation measures, assisting with an anesthesia machine and by cutting an opening in the windpipe and inserting a tube. They gave him blood and other fluids.

An electrocardiograph monitor was attached to the President's chest. **Chest Tubes Inserted**

Dr. Kemp Clark, chief neurosurgeon at the hospital, said he inserted chest tubes to relieve any possibility of air entering the pleural space.

They described the throat wound as an entrance wound and said the injury to the back of the head could have been caused by the exit of the bullet. At the back of the head, they said, there was "extensive laceration and loss of brain tissue."

"The President's heart stopped shortly after I arrived," Dr. Clark said. "We tried closed-chest cardiac massage. We were able to obtain palpable pulses by this method, but to no avail."

The doctors thought the President lived 40 minutes after reach-



