

Marxism Was His Religion, Engineer Recalls

By DONALD JANSON

IRVING, Tex., Nov. 23 — A transplanted New Yorker said today the question of violence came up frequently in long philosophical discussions he had held with Lee Harvey Oswald in recent months.

Oswald refused to eschew violence," said Michael R. Paine, "as a method for achieving desired ends."

Paine, an engineer who was born in New York and attended Harvard University for two years, said "Marxism was a religion" with Oswald.

He said that Oswald, who is being held on charges of assassinating President John F. Kennedy, "believed in Communism and thought it would take over the world."

'Not Logical'

The black-haired young engineer said he had finally given up efforts to have "a useful conversation" with Oswald because "he was not logical."

"He wanted to change the free enterprise system," Paine said, "while at the same time saying he returned to the United States from Russia because he liked the freedom people had in this country."

Paine said one of the reasons Oswald became unhappy after his defection to Russia was that the Russians refused to let him have a gun.

He said that the only way the Russians would let him own a rifle was if he belonged to a shooting club, which he didn't. "Paine said he believes that Oswald is 'somewhat paranoid.'"

Married in Russia

The former Marine moved to the Soviet Union to live in 1959. There he married Marina Nichols, a Minsk pharmacist. Their first child, June Lee, was born in Russia.

Since last September, Oswald's family has been living at the Paine home in this small town 10 miles from Dallas. Mrs. Paine took her in because Mrs. Oswald was pregnant again and Oswald, frequently out of work, was having difficulties supporting her.

Oswald found an \$8-a-week room in Oak Cliff, a section of

Dallas. He lived there until he was arrested yesterday.

Mrs. Paine's friendship with Marina, a slight brunette, began when she met the Oswalds at a party in Dallas given by a mutual friend last February.

Mrs. Paine, a native of Pennsylvania, had been invited because she was learning Russian and Mrs. Oswald spoke only Russian.

Since then Mrs. Oswald has stayed at the Paine home intermittently, with her baby daughter, not yet 2, while her husband went from job to job in Fort Worth, Dallas, and recently in New Orleans, the city of his birth 24 years ago.

The women exchanged letters when the Oswalds were in New Orleans and two months ago.

Mrs. Paine drove to New Orleans and brought Mrs. Oswald and her daughter back to Irving for another extended visit.

Oswald followed his family to Texas in October and found a job in a Dallas textbook warehouse. Audrey Marina Rachel Oswald was born a month ago. Oswald came to see the babies and his wife often, always speaking only in Russian to them, and sometimes stayed overnight.

Although Paine is not living with his wife and two daughters now, he comes from nearby Grand Prairie frequently to visit them.

Philosophical Talks

It was on these occasions that he engaged in philosophical discussions with Oswald.

He recalled the tenor of the conversations today in an interview in the living room of his wife's modest, middle-class home here.

In them, he said, he had never been able to convince Oswald of the superiority of free enterprise.

He described Oswald as quiet and "hard to get to know." "At that," he said, "I've talked with him perhaps more than anyone else around here."

philosophy and political systems.

Mrs. Paine said that she had noticed no particular nervousness in Oswald's behavior Thursday night.

She said she was sure his wife knew nothing of any plans for violence he might have had. Paine called the 22-year-old Russian woman "apolitical" and "a very fine person" who "likes America."

Helped With Language

Mrs. Paine said she was a very good mother and friend, and that her own mastery of the Russian language had improved considerably as a result of long practice in conversing with her.

She said that she had never really become acquainted with Oswald. Nor did most neighbors of the Paines ever know much more about the Oswalds than that they "spoke a foreign language."

Paine said he had never heard Oswald say anything against President Kennedy.

"If he did it, it's because the opportunity presented itself for him to make his mark in history. He has made his mark in history. He has affected history.

"If he did it, I'll bet the idea just popped into his head, just occurred to him."

Oswald had not even been close

to his brother, Robert, of Denison, Tex., or his widowed mother, Marguerita, of Fort Worth, although they rushed to Dallas to aid him when they heard of his arrest.

Mother a Nurse

His mother, a practical nurse, wore her white uniform to police headquarters last night, this morning and again this afternoon, when she came to see him. She heard the news that her son was being charged with assassination and the subsequent killing of a patrolman and asked the Fort Worth Star-Telegram how she could get the 30 miles to Dallas "to hear him tell me whether he did it."

Star-Telegram reporters drove her to police headquarters and she recounted how lonely her son's defection to the Soviet Union had made her life. She said that she had not even seen her son and daughter-in-law about a year, did not realize that they were living so close to her, and had not known they had a second daughter.

Last night she stayed with her grandchildren and daughter-in-law at the Paine home.

Oswald's brother, a factory employe, spent much of the day at police headquarters seeking to arrange legal aid for his brother.