

OSWALD PLANNED A BOOK ON RUSSIA

Stenographer in Fort Worth
Tells of Typing His Notes
Criticizing Soviet Life

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A public stenographer disclosed today that she had typed notes for Lee H. Oswald that were to be the basis of a book on the hardships of life in Russia.

Pauline V. Bates said the man accused of assassinating President Kennedy walked into her office on June 18, 1962, with a manila envelope full of notes. He wore a zipup jacket, a white T-shirt and dark slacks.

"I saw your name in the telephone book," he said. "Can you do some typing for me?"

Miss Bates said she worked at brief intervals for the next few days typing the notes that had been made on various kinds and shapes of paper. Mostly, she said, they described the harshness of life in Russia.

The 24-year-old Oswald lived in Russia for three years after finding life in his own country unbearable.

He returned to this country June 13, arriving at New York by ship. He left New York June 14 for Fort Worth. His ticket was paid for by his

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brother in Fort Worth, with whom he was living when he visited Miss Bates.

He told her he intended to solicit the help of a Fort Worth engineer in publishing a book from his notes. There is no evidence, however, that he pursued the book project any further.

Miss Bates said she had to draw on her memory to recall the content of the copious notes. Oswald, she said, insisted that it be kept secret and had her destroy the carbon copy she used.

She said she had never been alone with the Bates. Oswald brought them with him and took them when he left.

In the notes, Miss Bates said, Oswald said he had worked in a factory in Minsk for 12 to 14 hours a day at a low wage. She said she believed he had said he earned about 80 rubles a month.

A ruble is valued for exchange purposes at \$1.10.

Miss Bates said Oswald complained that several families were crowded into one room, that there was continual pressure by the Communist party on civilians and that electronic listening devices were everywhere.

Other complaints were of no paid vacations, long lectures on Communism during lunch hours, monotonous food and a shortage of milk and fresh vegetables.

Oswald reported verbatim conversations with many individuals, all critical of Russia, she said.

Typed as He Spelled

Miss Bates said he had notes on several Russian cities but the only ones she could remember were Minsk and Kiev. She said she typed as he spelled.

"The names didn't sound like names even, they were so unfamiliar," she said.

Oswald told Miss Bates that he was ready to return to the United States after his "two-year visa" expired, but that he had married a Russian girl.

Actually, he had gone to Russia on a 30-day tourist visa and then sought to renounce his citizenship and become a Soviet citizen.

"I knew I would never see her again if I left, so I stayed," Oswald told Miss Bates. He said he "raised so much fuss" in the months that followed that the Russians permitted him to leave with his wife.

Miss Bates asked if he was afraid her relatives would be in danger. Oswald replied that her relatives were killed in the war.

"Does she like America?" Miss Bates asked.

Wife Was Impressed

"Yes," he replied, "she is very impressed with the skyscrapers, cars, food, clothes, the happy expressions on people's faces."

Miss Bates said she never finished the notes. On the third

day, she said, Oswald seemed "worried or scared."

"He was fidgety, up and down, looking over my shoulder, wondering at what point I was typing in the manuscript," he said.

He stopped when she was about one-third through. "Ten dollars is all I've got," he said.

"I'll finish it for you, Lee, and you can pay me when you get some money," she told him.

"No," he told her. He then pulled out a \$10 bill, handed it to her and walked out.

Miss Bates said she had seen him twice after that on the street but he had neither spoken nor nodded.

Mrs. Bates said that at the time she had the impression that Oswald had been in Russia as an agent for the State Department.

"That was my assumption," she said. "He did not tell me that."