

# Oswald Sought A.F.L.-C.I.O. Job, Acting Like 'Fellow Traveler'

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NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 30—

A labor official said today that Lee H. Oswald approached him for a job last May. The official said he got the impression that Oswald was inclined toward Communism.

E. H. Williams, director of the Louisiana and Mississippi region for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, said Oswald had told him he had been unable to find a proper job.

### Intensive Investigation

"He thought he was entitled to a good job," Mr. Williams said in a telephone interview from his home in Shreveport. Mr. Williams said Oswald's manner during two visits to the A. F. L.-C. I. O. office here, showed "that he was a little bit odd; he sounded like he might be a fellow traveler."

"You know," he added, "we can spot them pretty good." Oswald, who was accused of assassinating President Kennedy, was killed himself in the Dallas police station.

The former Marine's 20-week stay in New Orleans last summer has been the subject of an intensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investi-

gation, which is trying to reconstruct his actions and thoughts prior to the assassination.

Mr. Williams said Oswald first wrote him a letter requesting information about employment. The labor official did not keep the letter, and he did not recall its complete contents, but he said he believed the return address was Magazine Street, New Orleans.

This would place the date of the letter some time after May 9, when Oswald and his family moved into a white frame house at 4907 Magazine Street. Mr. Williams said he did not reply to the letter because "we get lots of them, and we call them crackpot letters." He said many look on the A.F.L.-C.I.O. as an employment agency.

### Arrived for Interview

In the letter, Mr. Williams said, Oswald wrote that he was coming to see him. Mr. Williams continued:

"He did show up, probably a week later. He wanted work. He said he'd tried to get jobs everywhere, all over the country, but that nobody seemed to want to give him a job that he could make a living at. He thought he was entitled to a good job.

"I asked him what union he belonged to. He said he didn't belong to any, but would join

one if he could get a good job. "I told him we weren't in the business of getting jobs for people, but that if he went to the employment service he could get a job."

Mr. Williams said Oswald returned to his office a few days later to continue the conversation. The labor official said he remembered little of the discussion. "He sat around a long time," said Mr. Williams. "He talked like a mixed-up kid who seemed to feel the whole world was against him; I suspected that he was a little bit odd."

### Found Job as Oiler

Mr. Williams said it was the way Oswald acted, rather than anything he said, that indicated he might have been a "fellow traveler."

Oswald, who later was to proclaim himself a Marxist, did have a job on the day after he found the apartment on Magazine Street.

He started work on May 10 as an oiler, a maintenance man, in a New Orleans coffee warehouse, but he was dismissed on July 19 for incompetence.

Little is known of how Oswald supported himself between July 19 and Sept. 23, when he left New Orleans on a trip to Mexico, then went on to Dallas. It is known that Oswald listed his occupation in the late summer as a commercial pho-

tographer's assistant. A check today of 18 commercial photographers in New Orleans — almost all of those who do business here — showed that none remembered having employed him.

It was also learned today that the Louisiana Department of Labor, which administers the unemployment compensation program here, turned over certain files to F. B. I. agents.

An official of the Labor Department refused to comment on whether the files contained records of payments made to Oswald during the summer, or whether they contained applications for payments. He did imply that the records contained references to Oswald.

### Disillusioned by Soviet

Mr. Williams' recollection of Oswald's bitterness coincided with the memories of other persons in New Orleans had of the young man.

Yesterday it was disclosed that Oswald, in an Aug. 21 conversation with a New Orleans radio interviewer, expressed disappointment with what he found during a two-and-one-half-year stay in the Soviet Union. The interviewer, William K. Stuckey, quoted Oswald as having told him: "It wasn't what I expected.

In many ways, it's just as bad as it is here. They have eliminated all the dissenters."

Mr. Stuckey said Oswald remarked, after a radio debate in which he was confronted unexpectedly with a question about his Russian trip: "Well, you've done your job."

A library worker remembered that last May, when Oswald applied for a library card, he grew angry when asked to produce personal identification.

### Bitter Over Fine

In early August, when Oswald and a group of anti-Castro Cuban exiles were taken into Municipal Court on charges of disturbing the peace, Oswald was fined \$10 and the charges against the others were dismissed.

Oswald was later quoted as having recalled the matter with bitterness.

The only person in New Orleans who has publicly recalled Oswald appearing happy is his maternal aunt, Mrs. Dutz Murret. Oswald stayed at the Murret house for a few days before finding the warehouse job.

Mrs. Murret said today that Oswald never spoke bitterly about her. She remembered that he had seemed "quite happy" when he found the apartment and moved his Russian-born wife and their child into it.