

PANICKED

Oswald

Defended

By Mother

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FORT WORTH, Texas — Mrs. Marguerite Oswald Friday tearfully tried to defend her son, Lee, of charges stemming from the Nov. 22 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

She defended him to the point of theorizing her son was innocently involved in the assassination because of panic.

“He probably heard the shots, because he was working in the Texas School Book Depository,” she told a news conference here, “and panicked because he was a known defector.”

“He might have run from the building because he was afraid he might be the first one suspected of having anything to do with it,” the greying 56-year-old mother declared.

He returned to his Oak Cliff apartment and got his pistol, she figured, because “it was the logical thing to do to protect himself.”

This is the way Mrs. Oswald said she has construed in her mind Lee Harvey Oswald’s part in the assassination.

“I’m not saying this is a true story, boys. It’s a logical story,” she said.

She entered the news conference at the Fort Worth Press Club with a smile, and even joked about rumors that she was a “strife tease actor” in Dallas.

But as the conference closed, she had long streaks of tears rolling down her white cheeks.

“I have to face the fact he is the accused assassin, even though I think he is innocent,” she said, in referring to her claim that the FBI was to blame for not having her son under surveillance.

“I mean by this that, had the FBI placed all characters — and I’m referring to my son as a character — under surveillance then President Kennedy would have been alive today, and so would my son.”