

# OSWALD'S WIDOW KEPT IN SECLUSION

## Other Than F.B.I. Men Are Allowed to See Her

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DALLAS, Dec. 20—A month after President Kennedy was killed, the Russian widow, the accused assassin is still being sequestered here by the Secret Service.

Lee H. Oswald was arrested on charges of assassinating President Nov. 22. Ever since Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby two days later, his widow and two baby daughters have been held virtually incommunicado at secret hideouts in the Dallas area.

The enormity of the crime and the isolation of her confinement have been bewildering to Mrs. Oswald, according to someone who sees her.

The 22-year-old woman's unfamiliarity with the English language contributes to the strangeness of the situation she finds herself in.

When she asked to see Russian-speaking friends, Secret Service agents said, "Not yet."

Curiously, neither the Secret Service nor the Department of Justice is willing to take responsibility for holding Mrs. Oswald or for silencing her. Nor are her recently acquired business agent or attorney.

### Call Guard a Protection

Only Mrs. Oswald has the answers to many of the questions the public is still asking about the man she married in Minsk in 1961. Authorities deny that they are keeping her in custody or from the press. However, that has been the effect of the shield raised around her.

Indications today were that her seclusion may continue for months, at the insistence of the Department of Justice, until the Government's investigation of the case is completed.

The Justice Department and Secret Service spokesmen say that the guard is solely for Mrs. Oswald's protection from anyone who might want to harm her, and that she may see anyone she likes. Actually, few persons besides agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been allowed to see her.

### Business Affairs Handled

Recently the Secret Service became the intermediary through which she acquired a representative to handle her business

and personal affairs.

The representative, James Martin of Dallas, met Mrs. Oswald at the Inn of the Six Flags near here, where the Secret Service originally kept her. She is now in a private home.

Mr. Martin was resident manager of the inn, and had previously been a public relations representative for the Statler-Hilton Hotel here.

At the suggestion of the Secret Service, he took over Mrs. Oswald's business and personal affairs, obtaining an agent's contract with the approval of Robert Oswald, brother-in-law of the widow.

Mr. Martin retained John Thorne of nearby Grand Prairie as Mrs. Oswald's attorney and rented a Grand Prairie post office box to receive money, other gifts and letters being sent to the widow by sympathetic Americans.

### Memoirs Contemplated

After these details were arranged, Mr. Martin left the inn in order to be able to spend more time on Mrs. Oswald's affairs. He is using Mr. Thorne's office. He also has a second job, with a realty company here.

Mr. Martin repeated today that Mrs. Oswald would not now be permitted to cast more light on the unanswered questions raised by the assassination.

Nor will she be permitted to answer questions unrelated to the case, he said, about such things as her life in the Soviet Union or the United States. She came to this country with her husband last year.

Mr. Martin feels that answering very many such questions would hinder sale of Mrs. Oswald's "memoirs," as yet unpublished.

Yesterday and the day before, he said, he had to see publishers who have expressed interest and to see Government authorities about releasing the material.

Mr. Martin spoke with the Deputy Attorney General, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, and with J. Lee Rankin, general counsel for the Presidential commission investigating the assassination. Before that, he said, Justice Department instructions had been relayed to him through the Secret Service here.

Mr. Katzenbach asserts that technically Mrs. Oswald is free to see and talk with anyone she likes, including the press but that the Justice Department has recommended that she talk to nobody but Federal investigators.

In effect this means Mrs. Oswald is being held incommunicado by the Secret Service and the Department of Justice.

Mr. Martin said he would not permit her to alter this arrangement without Justice Department approval because informal custody was more com-

fortable for her than incarceration as a material witness in the assassination case might be.

Much of the F.B.I. report of the crime has been developed through questioning of Mrs. Oswald. The questioning is continuing from time to time. Mr. Martin said he feared that Mrs. Oswald might be arrested as a material witness if he or she permitted any breach in the secrecy that now surrounds her. He and Mr. Thorne said they believed she would be asked to testify before the Presidential commission, which is headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

They said they had got the

point. The commission study would not be reached until at least March.

They said this might thwart their own efforts to sell Mrs. Oswald's memoirs. Publishers interested in buying them, they said, are asking for them while the public interest remains high. Meanwhile, checks and cash mailed to Mrs. Oswald, who had been left destitute, now total more than \$15,000.

Other gifts, especially of clothing also continue to arrive. All packages are screened by Secret Service agents with a fluoroscope before they are given to her.

### Tests on Walker Bullet

Meanwhile, it has been disclosed that ballistics tests conducted by the F.B.I. have failed to establish that a bullet fired at former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker last April was from the type of rifle used to kill President Kennedy.

Police Chief Jesse E. Curry said today that the tests on the bullet, conducted in the F.B.I. crime laboratory in Washington, were inconclusive because the slug was so badly mutilated. Police sources said two weeks ago that the bullet was fired by Oswald.

In Fort Worth today, Russell W. McLarry was released on \$2,500 bond from the Tarrant County Jail. The 21-year-old Dallas machinist had been held since yesterday on charges of having threatened on Nov. 21 to kill President Kennedy on Nov. 22, the day of the assassination.

The chief defense counsel for Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald

arrived from San Francisco this afternoon.

The lawyer, Melvin M. Belli, said he would see Ruby at the Dallas County Jail tomorrow, and that agents for the F.B.I. would interview the prisoner at the same time. Mr. Belli will seek Ruby's release on bond.