

## OSWALD COUNSEL AT INQUIRY ASKED

Lawyer Says Public Interest  
Requires a Defense

NY-12/30  
Lee H. Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy, should be defended before the Warren commission "in the interest of the people of the United States," a leading Texas criminal lawyer declared yesterday.

Percy Foreman of Houston, president of the National Association of Defense Attorneys, said: "There's no other way, in my opinion, that the evidence in this case can be properly evaluated."

He participated in a CBS television panel show, "The Law and Lee Oswald," with Prof. Paul Freund of Harvard Law School; Leon Douglas, state prosecuting attorney before the Court of Criminal Appeals in Texas, and Newton N. Minow, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby, a Dallas night club owner, on Nov. 24, two days after he allegedly killed Mr. Kennedy. A commission to investigate the assassination was established by President Johnson and is headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"I think somebody should, in the interest of the public, not in the interest of Lee Oswald, but in the interest of the people of the United States, defend Lee Oswald before this

commission," Mr. Foreman said.

Widow May Testify

Oswald's widow, Marina, will go to Washington next month to testify before the commission, according to a source close to her in Fort Worth. She remained in seclusion today in the Dallas-Fort Worth area under Secret Service protection.

Mr. Freund said: "Without the appointment of a so-called formal counsel for a deceased defendant, I would surely assume that what Mr. Foreman has in mind will actually be done, and done very conscientiously."

Mr. Foreman also said he felt Oswald "couldn't possibly have received a fair trial" if he had lived because of the blanket press and television coverage of the assassination. It would have been impossible to impanel an unbiased jury, he said.

Mr. Douglas disagreed. He said the publicity itself would not necessarily prejudice a juror, but he suggested that in such unusual cases as the Oswald arrest "a set of ethics or ground rules or principles be agreed upon between the press, broadcasting medium and the courts."

Mr. Minow said: "When you're dealing with a Presidential assassination, the balance must be struck very differently than in a normal crime. Here it seems to me, the media had a distinct obligation to report whatever they could find about this to the public.

"If not, we could very easily have had chaos and riots in this country."