

Oswald Thought Walker Extremist

By CARL FREUND

Lee Harvey Oswald told his Russian-born wife that he shot at Edwin A. Walker because he regarded the former general as "an extremist who should be killed," her lawyer said Tuesday.

The lawyer, John M. Thorne of Grand Prairie, said Oswald wrote his wife, Marina, a note before he set out to shoot Walker on April 10.

The 24-year-old Marxist told her that officers might arrest him. He gave her instructions to follow if he went to jail or dropped from sight.

Thorne said Mrs. Oswald kept the note and warned her husband that she would give it to police "if he ever did such a thing again."

If Oswald wrote a similar note to his wife before President Kennedy was assassinated, Thorne said, she never found it.

"Mrs. Oswald was watching television when President Kennedy was shot," the lawyer said. "Like millions of Americans, she was shocked. She told me she never dreamed at the time that officers would arrest her husband and charge him with the assassination."

Thorne and Jim Martin, Mrs. Oswald's business adviser, said she believes her husband was mentally ill when he shot at Walker.

She believes also that Oswald was deranged at the time President Kennedy was shot, the lawyer said.

Asked if Mrs. Oswald believes her husband killed President Kennedy, the lawyer replied:

"I don't know. She knows of the evidence against her husband, but I don't know whether she is convinced in her mind that he pulled the trigger."

The lawyer and business adviser said Mrs. Oswald gave this account of the events which took place the night a bullet whizzed past Walker's head as he prepared his income tax return:

Oswald left home early in the evening. He did not tell his wife where he was going. When he failed to return home by 11 p.m., she began to worry.

Then she discovered a note from her husband, written in Russian, in a bedroom.

Oswald said in the note that he might be gone for some time.

Oswald also gave the number of his post office box and said he was expecting a check from a former employer.

(This was a reference, apparently, to a New Orleans coffee company which employed Oswald while he was in the Louisiana city.)

In addition, Oswald told his wife how she could contact the Soviet consul.

Oswald returned home white faced and agitated.

When his wife demanded an

explanation, he told her he had tried to kill Walker. She told him she strongly disapproved of such actions and they argued through the night.

FBI agents have the note now, Martin said.

"She wanted to know why he tried to kill Walker and he told her that Walker was a fanatic . . . an extremist who should be killed," the lawyer said. "Apparently he set himself up as an executioner who would decide who should live and who should die."

Thorne said he is convinced Mrs. Oswald was not aware of her husband's possible plans or preparations before President Kennedy was shot.