

Warren Commission Will Ask Mrs. Oswald to

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Mrs. Lee H. Oswald, widow of the man accused of killing President Kennedy, will be asked to identify for a Presidential commission the rifle used in the assassination.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, head of the commission investigating the assassination, said that the rifle was one of many pieces of evidence that Mrs. Oswald was being asked to identify. This evidence includes notebooks, diaries and letters that Oswald wrote in an effort to return to the Soviet Union. Today, in her second daylong appearance before the panel, Mrs. Oswald began identifying what Mr. Warren described as "physical evidence" found in their home in Irving, Tex., a suburb of Dallas. Mr. Kennedy was killed in Dallas last Nov. 22 and Oswald was shot to death there two days later.

"There is nothing of particular significance," Mr. Warren told newsmen today. He also said that Mrs. Oswald "knows she had a gun" in their home.

Prints Found on Weapon

"We haven't shown here the yet. I have an idea that I say that is the gun," he said.

Authorities have quoted the year-old widow as saying that Oswald in their gun on Nov. 21 had a rifle similar appearance to that used

in the assassination. She is said to have stated that it was not went to work Nov. 22 at the book warehouse from which the shots were fired that killed the President and wounded Gov. John B. Connally of Texas.

Oswald's palm prints and fingerprints were found on the weapon, a 6.5-millimeter Italian-made Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, with telescopic sight, that Oswald allegedly purchased by mail for \$12.78 from a Chicago sporting goods store. The rifle was picked up by the police on the sixth floor of the book warehouse soon after the crime.

In answering questions, the Chief Justice also said that the commission had questioned Mrs.

Oswald about the attempt to shoot former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker in his Dallas home on April 10, 1963. "That's as far as I'll go on that," Mr. Warren said.

Oswald was said to have told one person that he fired the rifle shot that narrowly missed Mr. Walker, who has been identified with right-wing causes. The informant was said to be his wife.

Progress Called Slow

Mr. Warren reiterated that "progress was slow indeed" because of the need to translate into Russian documents for her to identify. As a result, he said, he doubted that the commission would be able to complete hear-

ing her testimony before Thursday.

The material covered today, he said, contained "nothing new — nothing that I haven't read in the press."

The material, he said, included "letters written by her and letters written by him in connection with passports."

"There were some requests on a return to Russia. There also were some letters written in Russian to his wife," the Chief Justice said.

"He [Oswald] communicated with her in Russian because he didn't want her to learn English," Mr. Warren said.

Oswald married Mrs. Oswald in Russia. He turned up in Moscow in October, 1959, after being

Identify Rifle That Killed

ing discharged from the Marines. The Soviet Union refused him citizenship. He returned to the United States with his wife in the spring of 1962, after writing to Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, that the Russians had refused to grant him an exit visa.

Later, he was understood to have written several letters to the State Department and others seeking a passport to return to Russia.

The letters reviewed by the commission covered the last four years of Oswald's life, including the time he lived in New Orleans, Dallas and Fort Worth, and a trip he made to Mexico in September and October, 1963, Mr. Warren said.

None of the papers included a file on Oswald turned over to the Government by Soviet authorities, Mr. Warren said. Asked if her testimony had thrown any light on the visit he made to Mexico, Mr. Warren answered, "Her testimony will show that."

Over all, he said, Mrs. Oswald's testimony provided "no great surprises but gave very considerable amplification" on many points.

Mr. Warren was asked to clarify the status of Mrs. Oswald, who has been closely guarded by Secret Service agents and has not been permitted to make public statements here.

He said Mrs. Oswald was a free agent.
"Whatever the Secret Service and others are doing for her is what she wants," he continued. "There is no compulsion of any kind. We have no right to prevent a witness from talking."

He said that he assumed her lawyer, John Thorne of Grand Prairie, Tex., had requested the Secret Service aid and had asked her not to talk to newsmen because he might have wished to prevent "harassment." Mr. Warren said he was inclined to agree with this position "until we have finished with our job."