

MOTHER PLEADS FOR CHANCE TO DEFEND OSWALD

SL-1/30
FORT WORTH, Jan. 30 (UPI)—Mrs. Marguerite Oswald pleaded yesterday that her son, Lee Harvey Oswald, be defended before the Warren Commission.

Her attorney, Mark Lane, appeared jointly with Mrs. Oswald and said he would make a series of public appearance to defend Oswald.

The two told a press conference yesterday they were not convinced of Oswald's guilt in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Lane, of New York, and Mrs. Oswald, Fort Worth, both said the presidential commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy and the killing of Oswald had refused to allow them to appear.

Lane said he was receiving no fee and had traveled to Dallas at his own expense. He said he would go on a speaking tour, starting at the Town Hall of New York city Feb. 18. Other cities he mentioned were Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, and "several college campuses."

He said most of the speeches would be sponsored by the National Guardian, a weekly newspaper.

Lane said he hoped the tour would pressure the presidential commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, into letting him appear.

"The Warren commission has established itself as a jury—it should not be a prosecuting attorney as well," Lane said.

Mrs. Oswald, a practical nurse, said: "The only thing that would convince her that her son killed the President would be a determination by the commission after Lane had appeared before it."

"I hope it is accepted in the spirit of the name of justice and the American way of life, that a man is innocent until proven guilty," Mrs. Oswald said.

She said her son was "convicted within a few hours without benefit of trial or counsel."

"He will always be the accused," she said. "No one saw him shoot President Kennedy. It is all circumstantial evidence."

Mrs. Oswald said neither Federal Bureaus of Investigation nor the Secret Service had questioned her and she wanted to tell her side of the story to protect herself and her life as a human being.