

Oswald's Act Held Consistent With Make-Up

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—All his life, Lee Harvey Oswald hungered for attention. He never knew the normal paths to fulfillment of that need through meaningful relationships.

He fancied himself a historical figure frustrated by a hostile society. His personal world drove him to dramatic devices, including even a gesture toward self-destruction, to win attention.

He failed repeatedly until, reaching for the ultimate in dramatics, he commanded the attention of the whole world.

Oswald died after doing so, but that seemed entirely consistent with his own life, for he "had demonstrated a capacity to act decisively and without regard to the consequences when such action would further his aims of the moment."

This is a shortened version of the "Background and Possible Motives" of Oswald as reported today by the President's Commission of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

No Single Motive

The commission pinpointed no motive. It declared:

"Many factors were undoubtedly involved in Oswald's motivation for the assassination, and the Commission does not believe that it can ascribe to him any one motive or group of motives. It is apparent, however, that Oswald was moved by an overriding hostility to his environment.

"He does not appear to have been able to establish meaningful relationships with other people. He was perpetually discontented with the world around him. Long before the assassination he expressed his hatred for American society and acted in protest against it.

"Oswald's search for what he conceived to be the perfect society was doomed from the start. He sought for himself a place in history—a role as the 'great man' who would be recognized as having been in advance of his times. His commitment to Marxism and Communism appears to have been another important factor in his motivation. . . ."

Self-Destruction Noted

Did Oswald, deep in his mind, seek his own end as well as President Kennedy's?

The Commission avoided a



Associated Press

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, shown in Dallas police headquarters after arrest during afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963.

conclusion, although mentioning evidence tending to support a theory that he did not expect to escape. But there was evidence, too, tending to contradict that theory.

The Commission also explored the possible influence of anti-Kennedy sentiment in Dallas. It said:

"The Commission has found no evidence that the extreme views expressed toward President Kennedy by some right-wing groups centered in Dallas of any other general atmosphere of hate or right-wing extremism which may have existed in the city of Dallas had any connection with Oswald's actions on Nov. 22, 1963.

"There is, of course, no way to judge what the effect of the general political ferment present in that city might have been, even though Oswald was aware of it."

In any event, the Commission

found no credible evidence that Oswald had direct contact or association with any part of the so-called right wing.

The Commission also rejected suggestions of an Oswald conspiracy with the left wing.

Oswald was born two months after his father's death. There was not, except for one brief period, a father figure in his

life. One of his mother's sons by an earlier marriage said she had complained considerably about how unfairly she was treated and that she overstated her financial problems.

When the mother, Mrs. Marguerite C. Oswald, worked during the school year, the Commission reported, "Lee had to leave an empty house in the morning, return to it for lunch and then again at night, his mother having trained him to do that rather than to play with other children."

At the age of 10, while staying with relatives in New Orleans, "he refused to play with the other children his own age."

At 13, while living in New York, Oswald was exposed to three weeks of psychiatric observation at Youth House. Contrary to reports that appeared after the assassination, the commission said, the psychiatric examination did not indicate that he was a potential assassin or that he should be institutionalized.

The chief psychiatrist did find, however, that Oswald was "an emotionally, quite disturbed youngster who suffers under the impact of really existing emotional isolation and deprivation, lack of affection, absence of family life and rejection by a self-involved and conflicted mother." The psychiatrist recommended help and guidance at a clinic. Oswald never received that help.

Called Himself Neglected

Oswald himself apparently had no awareness then or later that he might have needed therapy. He wrote considerably, indulging in some self-examination. On one occasion he mentioned that he had been neglected. This was not a complaint but an explanation of a trait he called "independence." The psychiatric description of the trait was "withdrawn."

Oswald started reading Com-

munist literature in about his 15th year. Later, he had been heard to praise Premier Khrushchev and to say he would like to kill President Dwight D. Eisenhower "because he was exploiting the working class."

Oswald's developing hatred of the society he knew came out time and again. In the Marine Corps he showed his hatred of authority, baiting his officers by reading up on some foreign affairs problem and testing them on their knowledge of it.

He got out of the Marine Corps Reserve prematurely by saying his mother needed his support, but almost immediate-

ly he went to the Soviet Union and tried to renounce his United States citizenship. He was not yet 20 years old.

The Commission interpreted this as "profound rejection of his early life."

Disappointed in Soviet Union

The Soviet Union's failure to receive him with open arms "shocked" Oswald, he wrote in his self-styled "Historic Diary." He slashed his wrists. He was discovered and hospitalized for seven days in Moscow.

The Soviet authorities finally permitted Oswald to remain and gave him a job, with some special pay, in a Minsk factory. He soon discovered that the "freedom" he sought could not be found there. He complained of discipline and about those who seemed better off.

Oswald decided to get out and opened negotiations with Soviet authorities. Then he met and married Marina Prusakova. Later he wrote in his diary that he had married Marina "to hurt" Ella German, a Minsk factory worker, who had rejected him. He added, however, that "I found myself in love with Marina."

Oswald, not yet 23, returned to the United States bitterly

disappointed. He expressed hostility to Communism as well as capitalism, although he propagandized for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

His wife reported that their relationship changed and that trivial things would "drive him into a rage." He had no friends or close associates in Texas and he moved from job to job.

Saw Wife Before Assassination

His wife and two children stayed with Mrs. Ruth Paine and he lived alone. He visited them on weekends. Then came the weekend when Mrs. Oswald phoned her husband and told him not to come because Mrs. Paine's husband was to be there and Marina knew her husband did not like Mr. Paine. That was the weekend before the assassination.

On that occasion Mrs. Oswald learned that her husband had been using an assumed name and she became angry.

Oswald visited his wife the night before the assassination. He stayed the night but, as she testified, "he tried to talk to me but I would not answer him."

The couple's relationship was often stormy. The Commission concluded that the instability "was probably a function of the personalities of both people." Oswald was "overbearing" and apparently attempted to be the "commander" by dictating many of the details of their married life. He struck his wife on occasion and generally treated her with lack of respect in the presence of others.

The difficulties that Oswald's problems would have caused him "were probably not reduced by his wife's conduct."

the report said. Acquaintances testified that "right in front of Oswald, Marina Oswald complained about Oswald's inadequacy as a husband."

Called 'Not a Man'

"Mrs. Oswald told another of her friends that Oswald was very cold to her, that they very seldom had sexual relations, and that Oswald 'was not a man.'"

The report laid no blame to Mrs. Oswald for her husband's act. It said:

"The Commission does not believe that the relations between Oswald and his wife caused him to assassinate the President. It is unlikely that the motivation was that simple. The feelings of hostility and aggression which seem to have played such an important part in Oswald's life were part of his character long before he met his wife and such a favorable opportunity to strike at a figure as great as the President would probably never have come to him again."

The Commission explored and rejected the possibilities that Oswald's act resulted from a conspiracy with the Communists or with the so-called right wing.

Oswald had tried to enter Cuba and returned disappointed with his failure. It does not appear, the report said, that Oswald planned to go to Cuba. He was carrying only \$13.87 at the time of his arrest. Although he had left, apparently by design, \$170 in a wallet in his wife's room in Irving.

"If there was no conspiracy which would help him escape . . . it is unlikely that a reasoning person would plan to attempt to travel from Dallas, Tex., to Cuba with \$13.87 when considerably greater resources were available to him," the Commission said. "The fact that Oswald left behind the funds which might have enabled him to reach Cuba suggests the absence of any plan to try to flee there and raises serious questions as to whether or not he ever expected to escape."