

# Oswald case: A lawyer barred; a 'show' on TV

**T**HE PRESIDENTIAL commission investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, in announcing Jan. 27 that the first witness before it would be the widow of suspect Lee Harvey Oswald, disclosed that it had refused the request of Oswald's mother for the right to have a lawyer present at the questioning. Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, insists on the innocence of her son and has retained New York lawyer Mark Lane to represent her.

Lane told the GUARDIAN: "If a defendant were held incommunicado for 48 hours the Chief Justice and all of his colleagues on the Supreme Court would throw his confession out as tainted and absolutely worthless. The commission, however, evidently is going to rely upon the testimony of a 22-year-old Russian girl, living in a foreign country, held incommunicado for eight weeks and brainwashed by the FBI and Secret Service during that time. I am certain that many attorneys and others throughout the country and throughout the world view this act with amazement."

Marguerite Oswald declared that the charges against her son have been trumped up and called for the right to have her daughter-in-law questioned by an attorney at the hearing. Discrepancies in the evidence against Oswald disclosed by the Dallas police and the FBI were detailed in a summary prepared by Lane for the Warren Commission, and printed exclusively in the NATIONAL GUARD-

IAN Dec. 19.

**WIDOW ON TV:** In an extraordinary development in the case, Oswald's widow, Marina Oswald, appeared Jan. 27 in a TV interview on the Walter Cronkite CBS show, from Dallas. The Russian-born woman, who speaks broken English, declared that she did not wish to believe that her husband had assassinated Kennedy, but said that "facts tell me that Lee shot Kennedy."

Whatever the "facts" Mrs. Oswald referred to, there is no doubt that she had been told the official Dallas police and FBI version of the assassination. Marina has been kept in seclusion by the Secret Service since shortly after the Kennedy shooting, and visits by her relatives and friends and by Lane have been balked by bland statements that she does not wish to see anyone. Marguerite Oswald declared, "For a long time I have believed that a profound effort has been made to change her [Marina's] belief in Lee's innocence. Marina has been in seclusion too long."

In Fort Worth, Texas, Marguerite Oswald told radio station KBOX of Dallas: "My son has not had the opportunity to be able to prove his innocence and he will always be the accused. This thing has not been properly handled. It has not been handled in the American way."

**MEETING BALKED:** Marguerite Oswald told how she and her daughter-in-law almost met accidentally Jan. 26 at Oswald's grave, but, she said, the Secret Service kept them apart.

"The Secret Service whisked my daughter-in-law away the minute they spotted me," Marguerite Oswald said. "She didn't have a chance to say anything. . . . They have no right to keep me from speaking to my daughter-in-law."

In her TV appearance Marina Oswald said that she visited her husband's grave every week.

The New York Times reported Jan. 28 that although it had been previously reported that Marina Oswald believed her husband had shot Kennedy, "her own statement to the nation and to the world carried a dramatic impact on the screen."