

MURDER CHARGE LODGED

Mumbling Denial, Ex-Marine Held in JFK's Death

...Interrogation of the defiant Oswald halted briefly at 7:04 p.m. for formal filing of murder charges in the death of Officer Tippit. A brief arraignment was held in the office of Homicide Capt. Will Fritz, who signed the complaint, and Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Alexander accepted the papers on behalf of Dist. Atty. Henry Wade a moment later.

After being informed that he was charged on Docket No. F153 with slaying the policeman, Oswald said he wanted a lawyer. Justice of the Peace David Johnston told him of his rights to an attorney, denied bond, and remanded him to custody of Sheriff Bill Decker....

Later, in the early hours of Saturday morning when Judge Johnston told Oswald he had been formally charged with the murder of the President, he sneered, "That's ridiculous!"

This charge was filed by Capt. Fritz with Dist. Atty. Wade at 11:26 p.m., and when the tersely worded charge was read to Oswald and he was told he would be held without bond, he inquired, "Is this my trial?"

The complaint, read during a three-minute hearing, charged:

"Lee Harvey Oswald, hereafter styled defendant, heretofore on or about the 22nd day of November, A.D. 1963, in the County of Dallas, State of Texas, did then and there voluntarily and with malice aforethought unlawfully kill John F. Kennedy by shooting him with a gun."

Before being returned to a cell on the city jail's fifth floor, Oswald....