

Marina: 'Sick'

By DANIEL F. GILMORE

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Calling her late husband a "sick" man, Marina Oswald Porter testified under oath yesterday that she believes Lee Harvey Oswald shot and killed President John F. Kennedy and that he acted alone.

In her second day of dramatic testimony before the House Assassinations Committee, the Russian-born witness, who has remarried and lives in Texas, said Oswald was probably mentally ill at the time of Kennedy's murder.

But, she said, she did not recognize his illness for what it was.

"I was only 21 when he died," she recalled under questioning. "And I wasn't mature enough to recognize the symptoms. I did not recognize the state of his mind. It did not occur to me then that he was sick."

On Wednesday, her first day before the panel, she resisted stating flatly that she believed Oswald had killed the president. She said initially that she was not qualified to make such a judgment.

But yesterday, Rep. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) pressed her for an answer. Does she think her husband killed the President? Dodd asked the 37-year-old witness.

"Yes, I do," she replied. "I believe the man was capable of doing such a thing."

Did she believe Oswald acted alone? Dodd asked.

"Yes," Mrs. Porter said, "I do."

Her public answers were similar to testimony she gave in closed interrogations to the Warren Commission in 1964. Today's testimony was more qualified, however.

In an aggressive examination, Dodd pressed Mrs. Porter for the reasons she believes Oswald acted alone in Kennedy's murder.

"Maybe just intuition," she said softly.

"I do not believe he would confide in someone," she said of her late husband, "He was not that open a person." Oswald, she said, "wanted to be somebody — wanted to be recognized."

She said Oswald's mental state, not his political views, motivated him.

Asked about Oswald's affiliation with left-wing groups, Mrs. Porter said, "If the question is whether he acted from mental or political reasons, I'd have to choose mental."

Oswald

Did It



Marina Oswald Porter confers with her attorney James Hamilton.

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