

President's Murder Charged to Oswald

(The following story was prepared from material gathered by Dallas News Staff Writers James Euell, Hugh Aynesworth and John Rutledge.)

Lee H. Oswald, an admitted "pro-Castro" man who once lived in and sought Russian citizenship, late Friday night was charged with murdering President Kennedy.

Oswald, 24, earlier had been charged with the pistol-slaying of Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit.

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade accepted the murder charges from Police Chief Jesse Curry and Homicide Detective Capt. Will Fritz at 11:26 p.m.

Justice of the Peace David Johnston, with whom the charges were filed, ordered Oswald held without bond in both cases.

Curry emphasized that Oswald

had made no confession to either murder.

He and Wade stated jointly that the charges were filed — particularly in the death of the President — based on physical evidence at hand.

Curry declined to state what

Oswald's background, Sec. 1, Page 5.

physical evidence police had in hand.

Wade said he expects the case to go to the Dallas County grand jury at mid-week. "There are some pieces of information that need to be picked up," Wade said.

U.S. Atty. Barefoot Sanders of the Northern District of Texas said late Friday night there is no specific federal statute covering

the assassination of the President of the United States.

"However, there may be other federal criminal statutes involved here and we are studying them," Sanders stated.

Shortly after midnight, Curry and Wade held a formal press conference announcing the filing of charges in the President's murder.

Oswald later was brought in to the crowded police squad room. In response to reporter's questions, the defendant, said he had requested counsel.

He said the "judge gave me a hearing that was very short and sweet."

When asked if he killed the President, Oswald replied, "I have not been told that I have been

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charged with the murder of the President."

Wade confirmed that the man had not been advised of charges in connection with the President's slaying. But he had been told of his charges in the death of the patrolman.

As he was being led from the press conference, reporters questioned Oswald about a bruised eye. "The police hit me," he said.

Wade said later Oswald's injury came during a struggle when he was captured.

Wade told reporters, "I figure we have enough (evidence) to convict him."

"There was no one else but him," Wade said, dispelling earlier reports that Oswald may have had an accomplice or accomplices.

The district attorney said officers plan to let Oswald sleep tonight, and resume questioning him Saturday morning.

Wade, in response to questions, said Oswald appeared to be sane. He expressed doubts that a Communist conspiracy was involved in

the assassination.

Oswald had been in Dallas two months, coming from New Orleans, Wade said. Asked if he or Dallas police had been alerted by federal authorities to Oswald's presence in Dallas (since he had been arrested in a street brawl with anti-Castro forces in New Orleans), Wade said, "No."

And Sheriff's Deputy Roger D. Craig, 27, identified Oswald as the man he saw running from the Texas School Book Depository building at Elm and Houston, from where President Kennedy's assassin fired a high powered rifle.

There were conflicting reports of how Oswald left the scene of the President's slaying. Homicide officers said they had a report Oswald got on a bus. A woman passenger said she mentioned the slaying to a man resembling Oswald and he "just smiled."

Meanwhile, Craig said he saw Oswald whistle down a white Rambler driven by a Negro man. The auto picked him up at the Elm Street curb and sped westward to Stemmons Freeway.

Oswald, who was cornered and

wrestled out of the Texas Theater, 231 W. Jefferson, about 2 p.m., still has admitted nothing about the President's death or the patrolman's slaying.

The Dallas News learned from very reliable sources that the FBI had brought a portable polygraph (lie detector) machine to Dallas police headquarters Friday night.

Why was Patrolman Tippitt shot about 1:15 p.m.? Police officials were unsure whether it was the all points bulletin describing the President's slayer that caused Tippitt to stop Oswald as he hurriedly walked along the Oak Cliff street.

Tippitt made no radio call to headquarters (telling them of what he was doing. Dispatchers learned of his slaying when an unidentified man called on the patrolman's radio and said: "A policeman has been shot. He's lying out here in the street. I think he's dead.")

Simultaneously dispatchers received a telephone call with the same information.

Police arrived at the East 10th location to find the patrolman sprawled near the left hand front door of his squad car.

Witnesses to the shooting described a bushy-haired man about 30 as Tippitt's slayer. They said he wore a white cotton jacket. He had run from the area. One man said he saw the suspect stick a gun in his belt.

Mrs. Helen Markham, who was waiting for a bus, told of the cold-blooded shooting:

"I saw him shoot the officer, as he looked him in the eyes.

"I ran to the officer to see if I could help him, and he (the assailant) just looked at me and ran," said the cafe employe, who lives at 328 E. Ninth.

She said Tippitt pulled his car to the curb to stop the assailant as he walked east on 10th Street.

"He walked over to the police car, leaned in the window and said something to the policeman," she recounted. "Then the officer got out of the car, and began walking around the back of it to say something to him.

"All of a sudden they stopped.

looked at each other and he pulled out his gun and shot the officer," she said.

Mrs. Markham said she had no trouble recalling what the assailant looked like: "I thought he was going to kill me, too, and you really look good at a time like that."

Police converged on the area and trailed the slayer to the 400 block of East Jefferson. They saw him dart between a service station and a drive-in grocery. Police, sheriff's deputies and FBI agents armed with shotguns continued a zig-zag trail westward on Jefferson.

Then came the report from a cashier at the Texas Theater that a man acting suspiciously had just entered the movie house.

Policemen entered front and rear doors.

Patrolman N. M. McDonald started up the lower floor aisle from the rear door. Only five persons were in the main part of the theater.

Then McDonald spotted a man sitting on the third row from the back. McDonald said as he drew close, the man stood up and shouted:

"This is it. McDonald when he ran to Oswald, was struck with a fist. Then Oswald made a grab for a gun. McDonald said he rammed his hand into the top of the man's trousers and grabbed the revolver.

He said Oswald pulled the trigger, but apparently the officer's finger jammed the action and kept the gun from firing.

Other officers came to McDonald's aid and Detective Bob K. Carroll got possession of the pistol. Detective Paul Bentley sprained an ankle during the fracas.

Numerous youths ran from the show ahead of the six officers who grappled with Oswald as they took him to a waiting squad car. One officer shoved his hat over Oswald's face.

The young spectators were yelling "Kill the son of a bitch, kill the son of a bitch!"

Bentley said Oswald kept hollering, "It's all over now!" Then he began protesting about police brutality as he was put into the police car.

Sgt. Jerry Hill said Tippitt, an

11-year police veteran with three children, was shot three times—twice in the head.

The revolver recovered from Oswald was .38 caliber, possibly a wartime model with the barrel sawed off.

The rifle was described as a war-surplus 6.5mm Italian, 6-shot, bolt action rifle.

It had a 4-power scope sight attached.

A woman identified as Oswald's wife was interrogated at police headquarters Friday night, through an interpreter, by the U.S. Immigration Service. The slight blonde who spoke only Rus-

sian was accompanied by a woman who speaks Russian. Mrs. Oswald reportedly lives in Irving with the Russian-speaking family.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, about 67, came to police headquarters earlier accompanied by newspaper reporters from Fort Worth.

She was questioned by FBI agents and later released to go home, as was Oswald's wife and his brother. The brother's name was not immediately learned.

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