

Lee Harvey Oswald's mother

"My son Lee Harvey Oswald was innocent. He was framed. The American intelligence community was involved. Now, finally there is proof that the killing of John Kennedy and Lee Oswald should be reexamined."

These are the words of Marguerite Oswald, a 68-year-old Ft. Worth, Tex., grandmother who escaped from anonymity 12 years ago when her son Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. The following day mother and son visited in a Texas jailhouse. And the next day, Nov. 24, Lee Oswald was himself murdered by Jack Ruby in front of several million television viewers.

Now, in September 1975, after more than a decade of futile pleading that her son was not the sole killer of President Kennedy as the Warren Commission concluded, Marguerite



Oswald would finally be listened to clearly and carefully. Previously, she had been ignored by investigators who believed she was remembering only what a mother wanted to.

Protect the FBI, and you'll rise to the top

(ZNS) — *Time* magazine is reporting that the FBI officials who reportedly ordered the secret destruction of materials relating to Lee Harvey Oswald shortly after President Kennedy's assassination are now the same officials running the entire FBI.

The incident in question dates back to November of 1963, just a few days before the murder of the president. The *Dallas Times Herald* reports that Oswald, who was known to a number of FBI officials in Dallas, personally delivered a threatening letter to the Dallas FBI office shortly before the assassination.

FBI Director Clarence Kelley has confirmed that the Oswald letter was received and admits that it was secretly destroyed by the FBI after the assassination

before it could be turned over to the Warren Commission.

Kelley claims that it cannot be determined who ordered the letter's destruction, nor why it was destroyed.

Time magazine, however, says it has been told by "present and former FBI officials" that the letter was destroyed on the personal order of John P. Mohr, the FBI's administrative chief in Washington.

According to *Time*, Mohr, who retired from the Bureau in 1972, denies any knowledge of Oswald's note. The magazine says that Mohr's three top assistants at the time of the note's destruction — Nicholas Callahan, James Adams and Eugene Walsh — now hold three of the FBI's five top jobs. Says *Time*: "Many agents believe the trio actually runs the FBI — with a little behind-the-scenes council from Mohr." □

The Warren Commission as well repeatedly refused to listen to Oswald's mother. The Kennedy family refused her calls and never answered her letters.

But the strangest development came immediately after the funeral of her son on Nov. 28, 1975. Marguerite's other son, Lee's widow, Marina, and their children and Marguerite's two sisters all attended. No one knew that when they left the services that none of them would ever see or talk to or write Marguerite Oswald again. It was as if she was to be blamed for the tragedy, or suspected of being involved in some plan.

Marguerite returned to her native Texas, and when an occasional curious journalist wandered by her humble home, she concerned herself with complaining about the millions being made by authors and others exploiting the public's thirst for assassination by-products. She would be content to live on Texas welfare checks. She still does and carries the stubs in her purse to prove it.

For years she repeated that she knew her son was innocent and there was new evidence, but she was afraid to speak up in detail.

We brought her to Los Angeles secretly on Aug. 28, 1975, because she promised new evidence was about to be made public that would pave the way for reopening the assassination probe. Not only would the killing of JFK be reevaluated, but the "murder of Lee Harvey Oswald as well." There would also be an investigation of the Warren Commission coverup of known evidence that would erase the appearance of Oswald's guilt.

Marguerite is quick to point out that her son was innocent in the eyes of the law. Of course, she is correct since Oswald never stood trial and must be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

In that interview, Marguerite predicted new developments "in a few days" which would establish the link between her son and the intelligence community. She was right.

Twenty-four hours after Mrs. Oswald's suggestive remark, Clarence Kelly, director of the FBI, confirmed that Lee Oswald had visited the Dallas FBI office a week before the Kennedy shooting. The record of the visit

was destroyed and kept from the Warren Commission.

simple. Would anyone walk into the FBI and focus attention on themselves a week before a planned assassination? Oswald already had an intelligence dossier and certainly would have been placed under surveillance after such a visit. But if Oswald were a known contact in the Bureau, as Mrs. Oswald suggests, the visit might have been considered routine.

Another serious consideration is the "double theory." If someone resembling Oswald were on the scene, the FBI visit could have been part of the frame. "Jack Ruby executed Lee Harvey Oswald because he had to," Marguerite charged. She insists Ruby was involved



and her son was silenced two days after the killing of the president to keep him from talking.

Mrs. Oswald's visit with her son in the Dallas jail on Nov. 23, 1963, becomes particularly significant. She has hinted for years that something was said that would be a clue to an assassination conspiracy. It now appears that jailhouse conversation included reference to Lee's visit to the FBI the week before.

Until our interview, she was afraid to mention her son's involvement with any intelligence agency. But I have been talking with her for two years urging her to come forward. Her timing was intentional.

Marguerite Oswald learned the FBI was going to make its move and admit the coverup in Dallas. Congressperson Henry B. Gonzalez, the San Antonio Democrat, was coordinating the move in the House of Representatives to demand a reopening of the case. Nearly 50 Congresspersons had joined in his resolution. The time was right.

Mrs. Oswald arrived in Los Angeles ready to talk freely but nevertheless concerned that she was still under surveillance herself.

We talked for 30 minutes with cameras rolling and then continued our interview with notes for hours afterwards. Immediately following Clarence Kelly's announcement, I called Marguerite and asked her if this was the new evidence she had promised. Of course it was! Suddenly, all of the con-

spiracy talk, the "double theory," the Cuban connection and the like had outgrown the rumor stage. Here was the only person who talked to the accused killer of a president the day after, openly associating him with American intelligence. Here, for the first time, was the accusation of "execution" by Jack Ruby because it was "necessary." Here was a little old lady who had been ignored and ridiculed suddenly coming into her own.

Marguerite Oswald is alive and well and determined to have the truth known. She is finding strange allies in and out of government. "When I contacted Rose Kennedy, I reminded her we had one thing in common. We both had sons who loved murdered in Dallas in November 1963," Marguerite said. But "she never answered... nobody did."

Marguerite Oswald insists her son was "a man of high principle concerned with many countries and many problems." But she admits Lee's activities in Mexico and his connection with Cuba should be reexamined.

Another of the interview's surprises was the suggestion that Jack Ruby's death was not the routine illness it appeared to be. Mrs. Oswald seems torn between telling everything she knows that might clear her son's name and holding back out of genuine fear for her own well-being.

She has agreed to sit down with a dozen journalists in Los Angeles and document all of her remarks. Now that those who had ignored her are beginning to listen, she will say more. Even Henry Gonzalez in Congress, a close JFK associate, is considering broadening his resolution to the House of Representatives to mention probing both assassinations in Dallas: John F. Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald.

Mrs. Oswald also stated that "I personally contacted Earl Warren after I testified before the commission. Even though I had new evidence, he refused to listen and sent me a form letter suggesting I write to the justice department. I did, and they never answered me."

"No one ever bothered to try and understand Lee Harvey Oswald. He was a man of strong convictions who was really concerned about the problems in the world. He wasn't just killed — he was executed by Jack Ruby."

"There were a lot of witnesses that the Warren Commission deliberately didn't listen to — even one FBI agent who said he had heard things in New Orleans about Lee and the intelligence community. There were at least a dozen others who knew important things and weren't called."

"I don't believe the powers in Washington will ever reopen this case. They are afraid to admit the whole coverup mess. But I would sit down with 10 or 12 journalists or others who would promise to listen and be fair and let me tell the whole story."

"I have been under control, I've been followed and my mail has been intercepted for years. Whenever a president comes to Texas, the secret service interviews me like I'm a suspect." □

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