

Oswald's widow said he

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lee Harvey Oswald's widow testified Thursday that she believes Oswald assassinated President John F. Kennedy as an irrational attempt to seek recognition.

Marina Oswald Porter told the House assassinations committee she believes

Oswald acted alone because his secretive nature would not have allowed him to confide in anyone about an assassination plan.

In her testimony, she stressed that she does not know for certain that Oswald

was the assassin who shot Kennedy to death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

"I'm just as anxious to find answers as everybody else is," she said.

But pressed for her personal opinion about whether Oswald killed Kennedy, she replied: "Yes, I do believe he did. I believe the man was capable of it."

Questioned about whether his motives would have been political or the product of mental instability, she replied: "I really don't know what to say about the motive."

"If you want my personal opinion as to whether it's mental or political, I would have to say it's the mental state of the person. The whole matter is so irrational it's difficult for us to come up with any rational answer."

Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., suggested that Oswald may have chosen to kill Kennedy because he thought assassinating "the man at the top," whatever his politics, would bring Oswald the recognition he had long sought and failed to achieve.

Mrs. Porter said she found that plausible.

On Wednesday, Mrs. Porter had declined to say whether she believes

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assassination

Oswald killed Kennedy, but acknowledged she "felt very uneasy" at the time because she thought he might be involved.

"It crossed my mind," she said then. "I hoped Lee was not involved."

Preyer, the committee chairman, had asked her if, in hindsight, she could say whether Oswald did it.

"I really don't know what to say about the motive," she said. "I don't think a person who kills somebody is stable, whatever the reasons are." As for Oswald's motives, she added: "I still don't think it's strictly political."

On Wednesday, she had refused to say whether she believes Oswald killed Kennedy.

Mrs. Porter also was quizzed vigorously Thursday on subtle differences between her current testimony and the accounts she gave the Warren Commission, the FBI, the Secret Service and author Priscilla Johnson McMillan.

She had testified on Wednesday, for example, that she believed Soviet authorities censored mail and bugged the apartment where she and Oswald lived in Minsk in the months after their marriage in April 1961. Mrs. Porter said

then she had no direct knowledge that they were under surveillance but assumed from gossip that the authorities would spy on an American living there.

Mrs. McMillan's book about the Oswalds quotes Marina as saying that a Soviet commissar told her the couple was under surveillance. She told the committee the McMillan account is correct and that she failed to recall the situation fully in her testimony.

Mrs. Porter also testified that she and Oswald stayed in a boarding house in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, as they traveled from the Soviet Union to the United States in 1962. Rep. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., noted that she has previously testified they stayed in a private apartment there.

"That's what I call a boarding house. There's a difference?" she responded. "It looks like a private house and you rent a room and the lady of the house prepares a meal."

It was not immediately clear what the

committee was trying to establish, but most of the questions on her contradictions appeared to go to the point of Oswald's possible involvement in any sort of conspiracy.