

12 Perplexing Questions About Kennedy Assassination Examined

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DALLAS, Jan. 25—Two months after the shooting of President Kennedy, questions about the assassination still await satisfactory public answers.

Nevertheless, Federal authorities remain convinced that Lee H. Oswald shot the President, and that he acted alone.

Here are 12 questions sometimes asked and the most authoritative answers now available:

Had Oswald served as a paid informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

A spokesman for that agency denied today that Oswald was at any time employed by the bureau in any capacity.

Newspaper and magazine articles have speculated that Oswald was in the service of the F.B.I., infiltrating leftist organizations at its request. The bureau's denial is categorical.

F.B.I. Quizzed Oswald

Agents did meet with Oswald, however, several times after his return from the Soviet Union in mid-1962. The last interview was on Aug. 10, 1963, after he had been arrested in New Orleans for a scuffle with anti-Castroites. The spokesman said that Oswald, as a defector, had been under F.B.I. investigation.

In the fall of 1963, agents called twice at the home of Mrs. Ruth Paine in Irving, Tex., where Oswald's wife and children were staying.

Mrs. Paine told them in the first interview that Oswald was living in Dallas and working at the Texas School Book Depository.

"It's a sore point with the F.B.I. that the fact that Oswald was employed along the motorcade route was not passed on to the Secret Service or the Dallas Police," a Dallas police official said recently.

Did Oswald receive a series of \$10 and \$20 money orders from an unknown sender through the Dallas Western Union office?

This report first appeared in a Dallas newspaper shortly after the shooting of Oswald. An unnamed Western Union clerk was quoted as remembering him as receiving the money orders because he was so unpleasant to deal with.

Confusion Is Suspected

An extensive check of Western Union records discloses no such transactions. Investigators are now convinced that the clerk confused Oswald with other customers.

Oswald did repay his debt to the State Department through Western Union money orders, however. He had borrowed \$435 through the American Embassy in Moscow to bring his family back from the Soviet Union in 1962.

Was a large sum of cash, as much as \$5,000, found in Oswald's room?

No, even the figure of \$150 that was first released by Dallas policemen proved to be high. A little more than \$100 was found in the room. Oswald had been working at his \$50 a week job at the textbook depository since Oct. 18. Given his frugal habits and the fact that he was not contributing to the support of his wife and children in Irving, he could have saved that amount.

Was a map found in Oswald's room with the Presidential motorcade route and a bullet's trajectory drawn from a window of the textbook depository?

The map of Dallas found in Oswald's room was a job-hunting guide he had prepared. Neither the motorcade route nor a bullet's trajectory had been added.

Metal Cases Explained

Mrs. Ruth Paine, who was shown the map for identification by the F.B.I., said that the textbook depository was marked with a line of about a quarter of an inch, which may have accounted for the initial confusion about the map's purpose.

Similar confusion has surrounded seven metal cases that policemen took in custody Nov. 22. They have been reported erroneously as filing cabinets filled with the names of pro-Castro political workers.

The cases were taken from Mrs. Paine's house in Irving. She said that three of them contained letters she had received in the period before she met the Oswalds; three were filled with folk-dancing records; and one case contained a motion picture projector.

Investigators took the bulk of material pertaining to Oswald on three occasions: From Mrs. Paine and Oswald's wife in Irving on Nov. 22; from Oswald's room in Oak Cliff on the same day; and from the Paine garage on Nov. 23.

Did one bullet strike the President from the front indicating an accomplice?

The number of bullets reported, their direction and damage have been matters of wide dispute.

Investigators are now satisfied that the first of three bullets hit the President in the back of his right shoulder, several inches below the collar line. That bullet lodged in his shoulder. The second bullet wounded Gov. John B. Connally, of Texas.

Third Bullet Hit Head

The third bullet, according to an autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, ripped away a portion of the back of the President's head on the right side. Fragments from the bullet cut a wound in the President's throat and damaged the wind-

shield of the Presidential limousine.

Doctors at Parkland Hospital have explained that early and conflicting reports were owing to the fact that they could not make a detailed examination of the President's wounds.

The President's body was lying face up from the time he was brought to Parkland until the time the body was removed. Dr. Malcolm O. Perry said. As a result, only throat and head wounds were initially reported.

Some reporters on the scene have also questioned whether shots from the rear could have produced the hole they observed in the windshield. Close examination has disclosed, however, that the damage was not the result of a shot fired from in front of the car.

Was it possible for Oswald to shoot three times from the sixth floor of the depository building and run down to the second floor by the time a policeman observed him there?

The entire procedure—firing the rifle, running to the second floor and then out of the building, a bus and taxi trip to Oak Cliff and a chase that ended at the Texas Theater—has been timed by the Secret Service and the F.B.I. So far as possible, they have duplicated conditions on the day of the assassination; they have allowed extra time for the crowds on Nov. 22. The reconstructions demonstrated that Oswald had ample time for the action ascribed to him.

Mrs. Oswald's Father

Is Mrs. Marina Oswald's father a Soviet Army intelligence officer in Miami?

Marina Oswald's father died when she was 2 years old. Her stepfather was an electrician. This report refers to her mother's brother, a lieutenant colonel, whose duties include ordering supplies for the Soviet Army.

A check has provided no indication that he is engaged in espionage or intelligence activities.

Did Mrs. Marina Oswald know that her husband had a rifle?

Yes, Mrs. Ruth Paine, a Quaker, has said that she did not know that Oswald owned the rifle and would not have permitted him to store it at her home. Marina Oswald knew of her husband's weapon.

But Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, Oswald's mother, has said that her daughter-in-law told her on the night of Nov. 22 that the rifle that policemen showed to her did not seem to be the one she remembered her husband as owning.

It is understood that Marina Oswald has since resolved her doubts. Until she testifies before the Warren Commission, this point will remain clouded.

Where Oswald obtained the pistol with which he allegedly shot Patrolman J. D. Tippit has not been established. Evidence now suggests that he ordered the pistol in March, 1963, from a California mail-order concern at about the time he ordered a rifle from Chicago.

Photograph Uncovered

A photograph found in the Paine garage in Irving allegedly showed Oswald with both weapons and holding copies of *The Militant* and *The Worker*. The latter is a Communist party newspaper. Mrs. Paine's husband, Michael, has been shown an enlargement of this photograph by investigators.

Did Oswald know Jack Ruby, the man who shot him, before the killing?

Despite scores of reports from people around the country who say they have found a link between the two men, none has been established.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, the accused assassin's mother, has stated that an F.B.I. agent showed her a photograph of Ruby on the evening of Nov. 23, about 18 hours before Ruby shot her son at the Dallas City Jail.

The F.B.I. has denied her statement. A photograph, bearing on Oswald's trip to Mexico City, had been shown to her that night; but it was not Ruby. Mrs. Oswald, who remains un-

convicted, has asked that the F.B.I. produce the photograph.

Was Oswald an agent of the Russians or the Cubans?

There has been no evidence uncovered to suggest that he was an agent of either country.

Visa Requests Refused

Investigators say that he was turned down by both the Cuban Foreign Ministry and the Soviet Consulate in Mexico City when he tried to get entrance visas for the two countries late last September.

In both cases, he was told that there would be delays before his visa could be issued. He left the Cuban office "visibly displeased," officials said.

Did Oswald have an accomplice?

Every report has been thoroughly checked and discredited—that other figures were seen with weapons at the depository windows; that figures were seen fleeing across the overpass near the site of the assassination; that Oswald arrived in Mexico with two men and a woman. At this time, there is neither evidence nor a promising lead that would indicate an accomplice or conspiracy.

What motive did Oswald have for killing President Kennedy?

He had no known motive. His wife recalled that he had denounced former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker as an "extremist" when she was trying to learn why he had allegedly fired a shot at the retired officer early last spring.

About President Kennedy,

however, Oswald appeared to have no strong feelings. He had told Michael Paine that, although he disagreed with some of the President's policies, he thought that Mr. Kennedy was doing "a pretty good job" on civil rights.

Marina Oswald liked the

President and his family and thought Oswald shared her feelings.

Oswald had written to Mr. Connally when he was Secretary of the Navy to protest the undesirable discharge the Marine Corps gave him after his defection to Russia. There has been speculation that Oswald

was trying to kill only Mr. Connally.

The Governor had appeared often throughout the state with little protection, however. Also, the sequence of shots indicates that the President was the assassin's target.

The only explanation now offered is that Oswald was insane.