

Author contends Oswald

By EARL GOLZ

Local law authorities were under heavy pressure from the White House immediately after President John F. Kennedy's death in 1963 to avoid making official statements that might link the assassination with an international conspiracy.

English author Michael Eddowes, in his new book "Nov. 22," asserts Dallas officials "were under pressure not to disclose information that came into their hands on the arrest of the assassin" and which would indicate an international conspiracy to assassinate Kennedy.

Within six hours after the assassination, Eddowes writes, federal authorities knew of the assassin's contacts with Russian KGB spies in Mexico City, the contents of an "incriminating letter posted by the

assassin to the Russian Embassy in Washington 10 days before the assassination" and the difference of two inches in the height of the assassin and the Lee Harvey Oswald who was discharged from the Marines in 1959.

Eddowes writes that "some might think that the new president (Lyndon Johnson) was told by his investigators that the KGB had engineered the assassination" and that he "decided that immediate restraint was necessary."

BILL ALEXANDER, then chief prosecutor for Dist. Atty. Henry Wade's office, said he had been telling newsmen on Nov. 22, 1963, that the accused assassin "was a Communist" when he was told to shut up.

Wade, acting on a call from President Johnson's

aide Cliff Carter, told Alexander to stop talking about a "Communist conspiracy," Alexander told The Dallas News.

"Knock that off," Alexander quoted Wade. "What are you trying to do, start a war with Russia?"

Wade said Alexander "had it warped some."

The district attorney said he called Alexander after the White House heard news reports that his office was to file murder charges against Lee Harvey Oswald as "part of a Russian conspiracy."

"Of course, Alexander knew you didn't need to allege all that, even if it was so," Wade said "And I don't think anybody knew whether it was so or not. And I don't think they do now, either."

Unbeknownst to Wade at the time he called Alexan-

der, charges already had been drawn up accusing the assassin of murder under Texas law, and making no mention of the alternative of conspiracy to commit murder.

The Warren Commission, in its report 10 months later, concluded the assassination was the work of a deranged loner named Lee Harvey Oswald.

AFTER WADE warned Alexander, he talked to Justice of the Peace David L. Johnston during the same telephone conversation and told him "don't say—don't use that word conspiracy," Johnston said. However, Johnston said the warning was unnecessary because "no factual evidence had ever come to my attention" that a conspiracy existed.

Johnston said Alexander began talking conspiracy

conspiracy talk stifled

After they had accompanied police officers to Oswald's apartment at 1026 N. Beckley on Johnston's search warrant shortly after the assassination.

"All that stuff now that was picked up out at his (Oswald's) room," Alexander said, "well, we were the first ones to recognize that we were dealing with a card-carrying Communist . . .

"The FBI wanted to pick up all that stuff. And I refused to give it to them. As Wade's representative I did what I thought was right, and I wouldn't turn it over to them. Then, when Wade and Curry (Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry) said that it should be turned over to them, I made Capt. (Will) Fritz (chief of the police homicide division) have that stuff all Xeroxed, photographed and inventoried. Up

there in city hall somewhere should be a detailed description, page by page, of what was turned over to the FBI.

"Now, I myself noticed that a bunch of that stuff was not listed in the Warren Report . . . I wouldn't say that it wasn't in there, but I couldn't find it just casually looking for it.

"This is what I kept screaming about and Waggoner (Carr, then Texas attorney general) kept screaming about back there: Damn it, we would like to know something about the outside connections (about Oswald and a possible conspiracy) out of Dallas County. I think that the boys (FBI) had egg on their face and knew it.

"I think they got cut by a double agent and just didn't want to admit that they got beat . . . When Oswald was

killed, the FBI took the attitude that that murder case was over with and they didn't owe us the courtesy of any return information. They just shut it down as far as we were concerned."

ALEXANDER, WHO was a member of the team that successfully prosecuted Oswald's murderer, Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby, said "subsequent events convinced me that they (FBI) were embarrassed . . . What they wanted to shut up, destroy and hush up was how deeply they were involved with" Oswald.

"Okay, so they guessed wrong," Alexander said. "It's just like a snitch for the police department that's getting his daily ration of dope and then goes out and commits a double axe murder."

Wade wasn't the only

Texas colleague of Alexander's to disagree with him.

Within hours after the assassination then-U.S. Atty. Barefoot Sanders of Dallas got a call from U.S. Deputy Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach inquiring about news reports of "an international Communist conspiracy," Sanders said.

Sanders agreed with Wade that "there was no instruction about who was going to talk about what . . . It was really simply a request (from Katzenbach), 'Don't put anything like that in (a murder charge against Oswald) unless you really know what you are talking about.'"

Waggoner Carr, then Texas attorney general, said that he had similar calls from "various levels of people in the White House."