

Motive Baffles Oswald's Widow

Connally May Have Been Target, Not Kennedy, She Testifies

Bulletin Wire Services

Washington — The Russian-born widow of Lee Harvey Oswald believes "he was capable of killing someone," but she still can ascribe no motive for his murder of John F. Kennedy 15 years ago.

"He always spoke complimentary of Kennedy . . . how young and attractive the President of the United States was," said Marina Oswald Porter, 37, now married to a Texan and living in a small town near Dallas.

She said, in answer to questions, it was possible Oswald could have been aiming only at then-Texas Gov. John Connally.

Connally was Navy secretary at the time the Marine Corps downgraded Oswald's discharge because of his de-

fection to the Soviet Union. Oswald had written the Navy for a review, but was turned down.

"I thought for some reason he was angry at Connally," Mrs. Porter said. "It was hard for me to believe he was angry at President Kennedy."

She testified before the House Assassinations Committee yesterday for One point involved the events of September 1963 when Oswald planned a trip to the Cuban embassy in Mexico City seeking a visa to Cuba.

"I was very upset about it," she recalled. "I did not know if I would ever see him again. I was responsible for one child, and another was on the way. I was quite lost."

Preyer noted that she had told FBI agents after the assassination that Oswald had told her nothing of his

plans to go to Mexico City.

She said she told that story to the FBI because she was trying to protect herself and her husband.

Preyer noted she told the Secret Service a few days after the assassination that Oswald had never used the name of Alek Hidell and now says he did use that name in New Orleans.

Committee members said they plan to press other discrepancies on details she has given at different times.

Pressed repeatedly about Oswald's motive in shooting at the president and Connally, and whether he acted alone, she said:

"I know one side of Lee. It would take a judgment of his whole character to put all the pieces together. I'm not qualified to give an opinion like that."

And, "I'm not a psychiatrist . . . but he wasn't a very trustworthy or open person. So personally I seriously doubt he would confide in someone."

He never talked of assassination as a political act or otherwise, she said, but on the night of April 10, 1963, he returned to their home "very pale and out of breath."

"I asked him to explain," she said. "He said he had tried to shoot General the first time in public under oath. In sometimes faltering English, she fielded more than 5½ hours of intricate questions about her brief years with the ex-Marine she met after he defected to Russia in 1959.

Mrs. Porter was returning for more questioning today.

As the questioning ended yesterday, some committee members were disturbed by discrepancies between some of the details of her current testimony and what she told FBI and Secret Service investigators in the days after her husband was arrested for Kennedy's assassination and then was slain himself by Jack Ruby.

Walker. I said 'how dare you claim someone's life?' And he said, 'What would you say about getting rid of Hitler at the right time?'

"He called him (General Walker) a fascist. I realized . . . he was capable of killing someone."

She authenticated copies of snapshots she took early in 1963 in their backyard, showing Oswald standing jauntily with a rifle in his left hand and a pistol holstered on his right hip.

Shown one of the pictures shortly after his arrest in Dallas, Oswald claimed it was "faked," with his head pasted on somebody else's body.

Mrs. Porter said she was staying with a Russian-speaking woman friend in a Dallas suburb when word of the Kennedy assassination flashed on television. She heard that the fatal shots were believed to have come from the Texas School Book Depository building where she knew Oswald was then working.

"My heart kind of stopped," she said. "I felt very uncomfortable. I thought my face would betray me. My face went red. I fled outside. It crossed my mind . . . I hoped it wasn't him."