Police Check on Letter and Photo Clues

By JAMES EWELL
and CARL FREUND

Dallas police Saturday collected mounting physical evidence against Lee Harvey Oswald in their investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Police Chief Jesse Curry and Homicide Capt. Will Fritz said a letter ordering a 6.5 mm. rifle with a telescopic sight from a Chicago mail order house last March 20 is in Oswald's handwriting.

And photographs found in the home of Oswald's Russian-born wife at Irving link him with the rifle believed used in Friday's assassination.

OSWALD, CHARGED with murder in the slayings of the President and Patrolman J. D. Tippit, also faced more court troubles Saturday when an assault to murder charge was filed in connection with the wounding of Gov. John Connally on Friday. Saturday, as fingerprint experts obtained still more evidence, police made the charge official.

Curry also announced that a paraffin test showed Oswald had fired a gun recently, and his wife told police the suspect had a rifle in his garage Thursday night. But it was missing Friday.

Under Texas law, however, a wife cannot testify against her husband.

Regarding the mail order for the rifle, Curry said:

"THE FBI HAS just informed us they have the order letter for the rifle. The handwriting on the letter is the same as Oswald's.

"The address on the order letter was a post office box in Dallas of Oswald's. The letter ordering the rifle was under the name of A. Hidell and sent on March 20 of this year. The price was $12.78," the chief said.

Curry said the photos show Oswald with both the rifle used to kill President Kennedy and the pistol used to kill Tippit on Oak Cliff street.

"This case is cinched," said a confident Fritz. Oswald, however, continued to maintain his innocence.

CURRY TOLD reporters that the latest evidence "just blows winds things up at the city police level."

Meanwhile, Oswald was expected to be transferred from the city jail to a solitary cell—basically for his protection—in the Dallas County jail sometime Sunday morning. Saturday night a crowd began milling outside the city hall basement entrance where he supposedly will exit for the trip to county jail.

Oswald, throughout his confinement in city jail, has been kept alone in a fifth floor cell guarded by an officer. Cells on both sides and across the corridor were emptied of prisoners as a precaution, police said.

He had his first breakfast in jail Saturday morning, consisting of the usual fare for city prisoners—Oatmeal, spiced eggs and coffee.

DIST. ATTY. Henry Wade again told reporters: "I think we have sufficient evidence to prove Oswald was the man who killed the President."

But Wade declined to discuss the physical evidence at hand.

Wade noted that three witnesses have identified Oswald as the person who killed Tippit shortly after President Kennedy was slain.

Curry, who said, "we had a good case this morning and it is even stronger tonight," said he is confident the rifle recovered from the Texas School Book Depository Building's sixth floor is the assassination weapon, although he said final ballistics reports have not been received.

THEY SAID also that three spent shells found near the officer's body matched those in the revolver which Oswald carried when arrested in the nearby Texas Theater.

After shooting Officer Tippit, he ran across a field and reloaded the pistol, Wade related. "Police recovered the spent shells."

In other developments:

1. The News learned investigators have at least two witnesses who saw Oswald on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository Building at Elm and Houston about the time shots were fired from a window on that floor.

2. Wade said that, while he does not anticipate additional arrests in the near future, he is not ruling out "the possibility" that others were involved.

3. The district attorney said there is no evidence to indicate any conspiracy involving foreign nations in the assassination.

4. Fritz said a bus transfer slip confirms Oswald's admission that he drove from the area where President Kennedy was shot to Oak Cliff, where Officer Tippit was slain, in a bus and a taxi. Charges had been various reports that a man fitting Oswald's description was seen entering a Checker wagon.

5. Wade said Oswald refused to take a lie detector test.

6. The district attorney said he will ask a psychiatrist to examine Oswald "as a matter of procedure," but emphasized investigators have no evidence which would indicate the former Marine is insane.