

Oswald on Payroll?

CIA Reportedly Tied With Murder

By EARL GOLZ

The Rockefeller Commission investigating the CIA has been supplied with written information that Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly was on the CIA payroll when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. The Dallas News has learned.

Author W. R. Morris of Loretta, Tenn., asserts the assassination was financed by the CIA which paid a Mafia boss to recruit at

least three "triggermen" to shoot at Kennedy in a "crossfire."

Morris has given the Rockefeller Commission the names of two of the gunmen, one of whom is now dead, and of a man whom he said "organized" the shooting.

Most of the information came from a former CIA operative who claimed he had worked with Oswald. Oswald's CIA number was 107 and he was paid \$400 a

month plus traveling expenses from the time he returned to this country from Russia in June of 1962, Morris said.

MORRIS SAID he met with the CIA operative early in the morning on Nov. 24, 1966, at Oswald's graveside at Rose Hill Burial Park in Fort Worth.

Morris, who had been assigned by the Associated Press to interview people who visited the grave on the third anniversary of Oswald's death, said he surprised the CIA agent as he was placing a vase of yellow mums and a note on the Oswald headstone.

The man, whom Morris refuses to publicly identify, has since left the CIA and is now in private law practice in California.

Robert B. Olsen, senior counsel for the Rockefeller Commission, confirmed that Morris was "invited" to provide the commission with a written account of his story in the form of a sworn affidavit, "but for his purposes apparently he chose not to."

"He didn't send an affidavit," Olsen said. "He sent a statement—unsigned, unsworn."

Asked whether Morris' story may be receiving serious attention from the commission, Olsen suggested "you obtain from him a copy of the statement that he gave to us and evaluate it for yourself."

MORRIS, WHO WROTE the popular book "The Twelfth of August" in 1971 that was made into the movie "Walking Tall," disputed Olsen's comment that his statement was not a sworn affidavit.

He said the cover letter was notarized, although "every page wasn't certified."

Morris also disagreed with Olsen's statement that Morris "wrote to us that he had information that we felt he should have."

The author said he would have never volunteered to send the Rockefeller Commission the information because he doesn't have "any faith at all in the Rockefeller Commission as far as digging into the Kennedy assassination" because "they already got their minds made up" that the CIA was not involved and it wasn't a conspiracy.

HE SAID he was contacted by letter by the commission which apparently learned he was writing a book linking Oswald and the assassination to the CIA.

He said he sent the statement to the commission May 1 and was subsequently contacted by Olsen by telephone May 9. Olsen said "I know of no communication by telephone from the commission to Mr. Morris."

Morris said the CIA agent was "shocked when he saw me" at Oswald's grave. He pleaded with him not to print anything about the incident, but Morris told him he would because the scene was so unusual. However, he didn't identify the man or note any CIA ties, he said.

THE MAN WAS thankful he didn't print a description of him and "later on he and I got to be good friends," Morris said. He showed Morris his CIA credentials and said he was quitting the agency because it was "ruthless and dangerous . . . and nothing but hired killers on the taxpayers' payroll," Morris said.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, Oswald's mother, said the same man sends flowers for her son's grave on each anniversary of his death.

Kennedy was a CIA target, Morris claims, because he "was in the process of abolishing the CIA. He said the CIA had blundered the Bay of Pigs invasion" of Cuba.

"The CIA had reached the point I feel where they thought it was either going to be Kennedy or us (CIA)," he said.

The Mafia was a ready recruiter for assassins, he asserted, because of unprecedented pressure being placed on organized crime by a Justice Department directed by Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy.