

Widow says Oswald wasn't sole agent in murder of JFK

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Suggests assassination was intricate plot

NEW YORK (AP) — Lee Harvey Oswald's widow says she now believes Oswald was not acting alone when President John F. Kennedy was killed.

"I think he was caught between two powers — the government and organized crime," Marina Oswald Porter said in the November issue of Ladies' Home Journal, published yesterday.

Testimony by Oswald's widow, who married Dallas carpenter Kenneth Porter in 1965, helped the Warren Commission conclude that a deranged Oswald acted alone in the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination.

"When I was questioned by the Warren Commission, I was a blind kitten," she said.

The commission, appointed to investigate the assassination, concluded it was the work of a single gunman, Oswald. In 1979, however, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, relying in part on acoustical evidence, concluded a conspiracy was likely and that it may have involved organized crime.

Since then, Porter, 47, has drawn new conclusions.

"I don't know if Lee shot him," she said. "I'm not saying that Lee is innocent, that he didn't know about the conspiracy or was not a part of it, but I am saying he's not necessarily guilty of murder."

"It was a very complicated

plot, brilliantly executed. Could any intelligent person believe that kind of thing was organized by one man?" she said.

"At first, I thought that Jack Ruby (who killed Oswald two days after the assassination) was swayed by passion; all of America was grieving. But later, we found that he had connections with the underworld. Now, I think Lee was killed to 'keep his mouth shut,'" she said.

Porter said that in retrospect, Oswald seemed professionally schooled in secretiveness "and I believe he worked for the American government."

"He was taught the Russian language when he was in the military. Do you think that is usual, that an ordinary soldier is taught Russian? Also, he got in and out of Russia quite easily, and he got me out quite easily," said Porter, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1961 after marrying Oswald.

In the months preceding the assassination, a man posing as Oswald reportedly appeared in several public places in the Dallas area.

"I learned afterward that someone who said he was Lee had been going around looking to buy a car, having a drink in a bar. I'm telling you, Lee did not drink and he didn't know how to drive."