The one issue on which he did not change his mind during this time was his desire to leave Russia and return to the States. By the beginning of July, the embassy had still not answered his May letter disclosing his marriage and his wife's desire to join him. Oswald decided to visit Moscow, obtained Soviet permission to travel, and unexpectedly arrived at the embassy on Saturday, July 8, 1961. It was the same day of the week he had arrived in 1959 to try and revoke his U.S. citizenship, and again he was asked to return Monday. This time he did.

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Oswald telephoned Marina in Minsk, and she joined him in Moscow,\* waiting outside the embassy while he met with American consul Richard Snyder, the same official who had encountered him in 1959.<sup>74</sup> Snyder found him remorseful. Unknown to Snyder, Oswald told him several lies—that he had never applied for Soviet citizenship, had not made derogatory statements about the U.S., and was not a member of the factory trade union. He truthfully told Snyder that he had never given the Soviets any military information and that the KGB had not debriefed him.

Convinced Oswald had learned his lesson, Snyder had him fill out an application for renewal of his American passport. The renewal was necessary since his passport was set to expire on September 10, 1961, and Snyder considered it very unlikely that the Soviets would issue an exit visa in the next two months. On the questionnaire, Oswald repeated that he was still an American citizen.†

returning to the U.S., Oswald complained to his brother, Robert, that the firing pin on his rifle was defective. "I went hunting with Lee plenty of times," says Robert. "He was a good shot who always got his game."

\*Unknown to Oswald, Marina, frustrated by their unsatisfying sexual contact since her pregnancy, slept with a former suitor, Leonid, on the day Oswald had left for the embassy (McMillan, Marina and Lee, p. 129).

† Some question why Snyder approved Oswald based upon his answers on the carbon copy of the questionnaire. At the bottom of the form, four acts were listed that would indicate a person had forfeited his American citizenship. All the prohibitions related to actions in a foreign state, including swearing allegiance, serving in the armed forces or the government, or voting in an election. Next to these prohibitions were the words have or have not. On Oswald's form, have not was apparently stricken, indicating he had committed one or more of the prescribed acts. In approving Oswald, therefore, it appeared that Snyder had bent the rules. The real explanation is more mundane

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Mr. Jennes. That is correct.
Mr. Jennes. Just the two of you, or did anybody accompany you?

Mr. Oswald. Three of us.

Mr. JENNER. Did you have a rifle?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; I did.

Those I take it were .22's.

Mr. Oswaid. All three were .22 caliber, that is correct. Mr. Jennez. Where did you obtain them?

OSWALD. Two of them belonged to me and one of them belonged to my

brother-in-law.

Mr. Jenner. Your brother-in-law?

Mr. Oswald. My brother-in-law.

Mr. Jenner. What is his name?

Mr. Oswald. S. R. Mercer, Jr.

Mr. Oswald. S. R. Mercer, Jr.

Mr. Jenner. What was the occasion of this trip? How did it come about?

Did you suggest it, your brother-in-law, Lee or how? orleans was a period of 2 to 3 days. One of those days, I feel sure was a the farm at which time Lee and I, and my brother-in-law went hunting. Saturday, either we spent all day out at my in-laws' farm or the afternoon at Orleans was a period of 2 to 3 days. Mr. Oswald. The day that I recall that Lee stayed with us in-between the

Mr. DULLES. Was this a couple of days before he left for Russia?

Mr. Oswald. This was a couple of days before he left for New Orleans or about 1 day or 2 days before he left for New Orleans.

charge the .22 caliber rifle he was carrying?
Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; he did.
Mr. Jewnes. Did you see him do so?
Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir. Mr. DULLES. And then he shipped out?
Mr. OSWALD. To locate a job.
Mr. JENNER. On that occasion, that i JENNER. On that occasion, that incident, did he have occasion to dis

the butt of the gun? Mr. JENNER. From what shoulder did he, against which shoulder did he place

trigger and discharge the gun? Mr. JENNER. And with which hand or fingers of which hand did he pull the Mr. Oswain. The right shoulder.

Mr. Oswarn. The right hand, sir.

on that occasion? Mr. JENNER. Did he exhibit any proficiency in the use of that 22 caliber gun

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Mr. Oswain. I would say an average amount.

manship. Did any of you boys bring down a rabbit or squirrel, Mr. JENNER. Hunting rabbits or squirrels with a rifle takes pretty good markson the fly, I

the peanut field, all three of us were shooting at him, and my weapon that I had, one of the weapons that belonged to me, was a semiautomatic 22 and I perhaps had a burst of four or five rounds that I said I got him. But all three Mr. Oswain, As I recall, one small, very small cottontail as he ran across

of us were shooting at him.

Mr. McKewzie. Did all three of you claim him?

Mr. Oswald. No. sir; I did. Mr. Jennes. Was that your only victory on that hunting trip or did some

one else shoot down a squirrel or a rabbit?

Mr. Oswald. No squirrels were killed that day and perhaps I believe this was and I believe we exterminated about eight of them at that time between the the occasion that we went into what we called a briar patch located off to the high but we were able to see over them, so getting three of us out there it three of us because it was the type of brush and thorns that didn't grow very left of the farmhouse; at that particular time it was very thick with cottontails wasn't very hard to kill eight of them.

of hunting at any other time during your lifetime? Mr. JENNER. Now, had you and your brother engaged in this very light form

JENNER Would you indicate the frequency of that?

together. This was during a leave that Lee had from the Marine Corps OSWAID, If I recall, only one other occasion that we had been hunting

fired maybe target practice, something along that line. I don't recall of at that particular time that we shot. I know we did handle the rifle and ing a leave that he had from the Marine Corps. I don't recall of any game light hunting out there at that farm, at the same place. One time was duranother time comes to mind, I recall two times that we had this type of Mr. JENNER During a leave that he had?
Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir. And at which time, if I may correct myself there,

and our children took him and his wife and child out to the farm to meet our in-laws, my in-laws, and also to do a little hunting while we was out there, and which we did just a very little bit. I believe this was on a Sunday The second time that I now remember is during his stay after he returned from Russia, during his stay at my home in Fort Worth, that my wife and I

afternoon and we didn't stay out very long.

Mr. Jenner. What weapons did you use on that occasion?
Mr. Oswald. On that occasion, I believe the same weapons we used before.
Mr. Jenner. Would that be true of all three occasions?
Mr. Oswald. I believe on the first occasion, which was the occasion that Lee

came home on leave, that at that time I only owned one .22 rife.
Mr. JENNER Was that the semiautomatic?

rifle, with a clip on it. OSWALD, No, sir; it was not the semiautomatic, it was a bolt action However, I believe Lee either used my brother-in-law's

Mr. JENNER. Was that a bolt-action rifle?

or a single-shot, bolt-action rifle, another .22 that was out at the farm Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; it is a bolt-action rifle. He either used that rifle

3-day period, interregnum his return and his discharge and his departure for New Orleans, was the weapon he employed a bolt-action weapon? JENNER. On the occasion during which you went hunting during that

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; it was.

you recall hunting with Lee he employed a bolt-action rifle Mr. JEWNER. Is it a fair statement on my part that on all the occasions that

Mr. Oswain. That is correct, sir.

your brother engaged in this light hunting or other kind of hunting where he used a firearm even though he was not with you or you did not accompany Mr. JENNER. During your youth and prior to these occasions about which you testified, do you know of the fact or know by rumor or otherwise that and prior to these occasions about which

is hunting and fishing, and I am sure when he had an opportunity to hunt that he told me, but his interest along that line was generally like mine, that OSWALD. I feel surely that he did, without recalling any particular time

that he did do so. Mr. Dulles. Did he ever tell you about hunting in Russia?

Mr. Dulles. Did he ever tell you about numbing in Kussia?
Mr. Oswald. Tes, sir; he did.
Mr. Jenner. Would you relate that, please, tell us when the conversation

took place and the circumstances, if it was a conversation?

Mr. Oswald. The circumstances was it was in a letter I received from him.

Mr. Jennes. Is that one of the letters you produced?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; it is.

Mr. Jennes. Did you have any conversation with him in addition to the letter, apart from the letter?

in hunting and fishing was mutual and he did state that he was able to-Mr. Oswarn. I believe I did along that line because as I stated our interests Mr. JENNER. In response to Mr. Dulles' question, would you give the conversa-We will take care of the letter in the morning.

tion? We will take care of the letter in the morning.

Mr. Oswarn, No, sir; I am trying to give the conversation.

Mr. Jennes, Thank you. Proceed.

Mr. Oswarn. That we talked about hunting over there Oswain. That we talked about hunting over there, and he said that

he had only been hunting a half dozen times, and so forth, and that he had only used a shotgun, and a couple of times he did shoot a duck.

Mr. Jennes. It was all shotgun shooting, no rifle shooting?

Mr. Oswaln. No rifle shooting, no sir. That is all they were allowed to

from Russia when he was living with you for that month, that would be June-July of 1962? JENNER. This conversation took place, as I understand it, on his return

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; that is correct

Mr. JENNES. And that is the extent of the conversation?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; that is,

whether he purchased it outright or on time with a guarantee from you. a television set, whether your brother purchased or owned a television set and are only reports as far as we of the staff are concerned, of speculation about Mr. JENNER. As you now recall it-there have been some reports, and they

What information or knowledge do you have in that connection? Mr. Oswald. I am not aware that he purchased a television set, sir. I did when he and Marina and the baby were living in Fort Worth

at his request, when he and Marina and the bady recommendation of the wasMr. Jennes. Where in Fort Worth?
Mr. Oswald. Mercedes Street in Fort Worth, in a small duplex which wasMr. Jennes. Can you fix even more definitely the time of this event?
Mr. Jennes. Can you fix even more definitely the latter part of September. 18

Mr. OSWALD. This was approximately the latter part of September, 1962.

And at his request-Mr. JENNER. He came to you, excuse me.

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Mr. Oswald. He called me, sir.

Mr. Jennes. He called you by telephone?
Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; he called me at my office from his place of employment in Fort Worth at that time.
Mr. Jennes. Give us the substance of what he said.

that afternoon after work, this was approximately 5:30 by the time I arrived at Montgomery Ward, I did sign for Lee's charge account. However, I was not aware of what he was charging.

Mr. Jenne. There was no discussion, I take it, at that time of what—the Mr. Osward. We talked briefly about how each family was doing, and so forth, and he said that he would like to establish credit and he had tried to charge something at Montgomery Ward's at Fort Worth, the West 7th Street store, and they had stated that he needed to have somebody costgn or vouch for him, and this was his request to me, and I said gladly I would do so, and late

use to which he intended to put his credit?

chair and a baby bed. Mr. JENNEE. Was there ever any discussion between you about his purchase Mr. Oswain. No, sir; I believe perhaps he did mention something about a baby

or acquisition of a television set? Mr. Oswald. No, sir; there was not

Mr. JENNER. Were you ever in his home or apartment?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; I was. Mr. Jennes. Did you see a television set there? Mr. Oswald. Pardon me, you are referring to Oswain. Pardon me, you are referring to the apartment on Mercedes

Street, is that correct?

Mr. Jennen. Yes.

Mr. Oswald. Yes, I was in his home quite a few times and there was not a television set that I remember.

your brother after his return to the United States, did you see in those premises a television set?

Mr. OSWALD. Yes, sir.

Mr. JENNER. Where was that?

Mr. OSWALD. At my house and at my mother's house.

Mr. JENNER. I should have been more specific and identified a residence as Mr. Jennes. On any occasion that you were there?
Mr. Oswald. No, sir.
Mr. Jennes. On any occasion when you were in any place of residence of

one of his own rather than living with you or living with your mother

Mr. Oswald. At no residence that he lived in that I was aware of at any time did I see him with a television set that I would take to be his own.

Mr. Jenner. Did you ever have any discussions—did any discussion ever occur between the two of you with respect to his acquisition of a television

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Mr. Oswald. None that I recall, sir.

vision set matter? Mr. Oswald. That is correct, sir. Mr. JENNER. This is, as far as you are concerned, a total blank, this tele-

Mr. Dulles. I think we had better adjourn pretty soon. This man has had

quite an ordeal for the day.

Mr. JENNER. It is acceptable.

DULLES Is it acceptable to you!

Mr. Osward. I have no objection to continuing.

Mr. McKenzie. If you would prefer to reconvene tomorrow morning we can

Mr. RANKIN. I think 9 o'clock is better. I think we can finish up in the

(Whereupon, at 5:15 p.m., the President's Commission recessed.) Mr. Dulles. Thank you. At 9 o'clock in the morning.

## Friday, February 21, 1964

## TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EDWARD LEE OSWALD RESUMED

land Avenue NE., Washington, The President's Commission met at 9 a.m. on February 21, 1964, at 200 Mary-D.C.

Present were Chief Justice Earl Warren, Chairman; and Allen W. Dulles

assistant counsel; Wesley J. Liebeler, assistant counsel; and William McKenzie. attorney for Robert Edward Lee Oswald. Also present were J. Lee Rankin, general counsel; Albert E. Jenner, Jr.,

The Chairman. Gentlemen, the Commission will be in order.

the testimony. I leave, Mr. Allen Dulles will conduct the hearing. As yesterday, I will only be able to be here for a comparatively short time, because we have our weekly conference of the Supreme Court today. And when We will now proceed with

Mr. JENNER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice.

discharged from military service and spent approximately 3 days at home. I would like to return, Mr. Oswald, to the time that your brother Lee was

You recall that period?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. Jennes. Now, would you please describe his physical appearance the last time you saw him during that 3-day period?

mately 5 foot 91/2, he seemed to be in fine physical shape at that time. appearance—he was trim, weighed approximately 140 pounds, he was approxi-Mr. Oswald. His hair was brown and curly, a full set of hair.

Mr. JENNER. I mentioned 3 days. Was I wrong about the 3 days, or was it a

little longer period?

only during one of these day do I remember seeing him. Mr. Oswaid. No, sir; my recollection on that period was 2 or 3 days, and He spent the day at

and alert mentally at that time? Mr. JENNER. It was your impression, sir, that he was in good health, bright

a baseball, football, et cetera, fire a rifle, or do anything, left handed. wrote, did he write with his right or his left hand? Mr. JENNER. In order to be certain of the details in this respect, when he Mr. Oswain. No, sir. I have never known him to bandle anything-throw

Mr. Jenner. And you in fact have seen him write with his right hand?
Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir, I have.
Mr. Jenner. During your youth?
Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir.

write or attempt to write with his left hand? Mr. JENNER. Did you ever-was there ever an occasion when you saw him

attempt to write or do anything left handed. Mr. Oswald. No, sir, I have never seen him at any time, on any occasion, ever

It anyhow.

There are men in athletics who are either right handed or left handed, but who throw or bat or do something from the other side. Mr. JENNER. You really covered my next question, but I would like to ask

Did he ever throw left handed or in any athletic endeavor employ his left hand predominantly as against his right hand?

Mr. Oswald. No, sir; not to my knowledge, he never did.

with him, as his brother, was he a predominantly right-handed person? Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; he most certainly was. Mr. JENNER. From your many years of experience with him, being associated

thing athletic over the years, and saw him use his right hand exclusively? Representative Fosp. And you personally saw him throw, kick, or do any-· ·

gether, and so forth. But I have never known him to do anything left handed to the extent that it would be predominant. Of course his hands worked toing myself here—at no time did I ever know him to do anything left handed Mr. JENNER. From your long acquaintance with him, and your intimate knowl-Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir. I would say without qualification-I might be repeat-

to whether he was instinctively right-handed or instinctively a left-handed edge of his physical characteristics in that respect, do you have an opinion as

hand or left hand? Mr. Osward. Yes, sir.

Mr. JENNER. Did you observe him on many occasions?

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when an occasion would require that he use either hand—instinctively went to his Mr. Oswann. Yes. I have never known him to use his left hand in any manner

are not coordinated athletically. Mr. JENNER. Was he a coordinated person in the use of his right hand? Some

extent that looking at myself and many, I would compare us as two peas in a Mr. Oswaln. My opinion of this, sir, would be that he was coordinated to the Quite fast, well coordinated

JENNER. He was dextrous? Oswald. Yes, sir.

Mr. JENNER. And you had an opportunity over the years to see him engage JENNER. And well coordinated? Oswald. Yes, sir.

in athletics, did you? Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir.

Mr. Jennes. During your youth, as a young man, in any event, did you and your brother John and Lee have an interest in guns, rifles, pistols, cap guns, from generally?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; we certainly did. I would say this. Mr. Jennez. Now, this includes all three of you?

Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir; I understand that.

Of course John and I, when we attended military school, we had more of an opportunity to become acquainted with firearms. We certainly played with cap pistois, rubber guns, et cetera, when we were young

Mr. Dulles. We will recess now until 2 o'clock this afternoon However, I would say this. Mother did not like firearms (Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the President's Commission recessed.

## Afternoon Session

## TESTIMONY OF ROBERT EDWARD LEE OSWALD RESUMED

The President's Commission reconvened at 2 p.m. Dutles. The Commission will come to order

Mr. Dulles. Mr. Jenner, will you please continue?

JENNER. Thank you, sir.

Reporter, would you read the last question and answer we have so we

with respect to the interests of yourself, your brother John, and your brother Lee in firearms, even at the children's stage. And you had indicated developments in that area as you became older. can orient ourselves. To refresh your recollection, Mr. Oswald, I had commenced to examine you

brother John and yourself had attended military school. I think you reached the point where, as an example, you said of course your

Mr. Oswald. And, also, I believe, sir, the question referred to all three of us. Mr. Jenner. Yes.

when I first attended there. My hunting instinct came alive. of us. To elaborate, at military school John was by far the better shot of the two Mr. Oswain. To what extent we were familiar with firearms. He was on the school rifle team. And, at this time, I was 10 years old-

any type of frearm. And when I wanted to go hunting from there, I had various triends that had rifles that I would borrow, and I would go to the west side of Fort Worth, and Benbrook, and do my squirrel hunting. My mother didn't like them. She was scared of them. Mr. Oswaid. Hunting instinct came alive, and at the first opportunity I started hunting squirrels and so forth there in Mississippi. I did this on practo 7408 Ewing Street, none of us owned a rifle, even a .22, or a shotgun, or time, a number of years after that, we never had a firearm in the house tically every occasion I had. John was on the rifle team. And up to that Mr. JENNER. Hunting? And after we moved

the age of 17, at which time he joined the U.S. Coast Guard. don't know that John did-because approximately this time he had reached don't recall at anytime during that period that Lee went with me.

Mr. Oswain. Yes, sir. Mr. Oswald. No, sir; I do not recall any time that we went hunting at that Mr. JERNER. This is when you moved over to Ewing Street in Fort Worth JENNER. Up to that time, had you and Lee at any time gone hunting?

Mr. Jenner. This was 1948-49. So he was 9 to 10 years old? Mr. Oswald. Yes, sir. Mr. Jenner. Had, to your knowledge, Lee gone hunting or use to your knowledge, Lee gone hunting or used firearms or

played or been interested in firearms with you or with your brother?

Mr. Oswald. No. sir. To my knowledge I don't remember any time he went firearms in the house. bunting with myself or my older brother John. As I stated, there was no

even own a BB gun.

Mr. JENNER. Had you ever had BB guns around your home?

Mr. Oswald. No. sir. He liked cap pistols, like any other kid. And to the extent that we didn't