



Photo by The Times-Picayune
MRS. RUTH PAINE
Says Oswald acted alone.

OSWALD FRIEND TESTIFIES HERE

Conspiracy Not Likely, Says Mrs. Paine

A friend of Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Oswald who did not believe she could add much to District Attorney Jim Garrison's Kennedy death probe was called upon to testify for a number of hours before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Thursday.

By 5:16 p.m. Mrs. Ruth Paine, Irving, Tex., had completed a total of four hours of testimony. For at least part of the time Garrison himself was present.

A short time later the jury was adjourned by Criminal District Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff.

Assistant District Attorney James L. Alcock, who was with Mrs. Paine the whole time, said she would not be asked to testify again.

He would not comment on whether or not her testimony will be of value to the probe.

DOUBTS CONSPIRACY

Before entering the jury room, the attractive witness discounted the possibility of a conspiracy in President Kennedy's death "because I honestly believe Oswald did not make up his mind to shoot the President until the day before."

Garrison believes there was a

Cont. in Sec. 1, Page 8, Col. 1

OSWALD FRIEND TESTIFIES HERE

Continued from Page 1

New Orleans-based conspiracy was among the Oswald belongings and has expressed doubts that

Oswald fired any effective shots.

Garrison entered the jury room about 3 p.m. with a stack of folders and papers, left, but entered again about 3:10 p.m.

Mrs. Paine entered the jury room about 2:10 p.m., shortly after the jury returned from lunch.

TESTIFIED EARLIER

Earlier she had testified from 11:10 a.m. to noon. She said she did not feel she could add anything to Garrison's probe.

Oswald's wife, Marina, was staying with Mrs. Paine in 1963 at the time of the Nov. 22 assassination.

The Warren Commission report concluded that Mrs. Paine and her husband, Michael, "were not involved in any way with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy."

Neatly dressed in a blue suit with white gloves, Mrs. Paine said she met the Oswalds at a party in Dallas in February, 1963. She was attracted to them, she said, because she was studying Russian, and Marina was from Russia.

DROVE TO IRVING

Later that year, September, Mrs. Paine took Marina and some household articles from New Orleans to Irving in her station wagon.

In the grand jury subpoena for Mrs. Paine's appearance, Garrison alleged that the rifle which the Warren Commission names as the murder weapon

Mrs. Paine said a gun could have been in the car, but "I did not see one."

"I did not even know he had a rifle," she said. She only learned of it the day after the assassination.

NO GUN FOUND

She said police went to her house after the murder and asked about a rifle. Marina told them it was in the garage wrapped in a blanket, according to Mrs. Paine. The officers found no gun.

She said she did not regard Oswald as "violent," and that if she had, she would not have allowed him near her children.

She also said she knew nothing of an incident in which Oswald allegedly shot at Gen. Edwin Walker until after the assassination.

As to a conspiracy, she said that if Oswald had plotted the killing in advance, "it is my belief he would have come to the house for the gun a few days earlier, instead of waiting until the last minute when something could go wrong."

"But I could be wrong," she conceded.

The Warren Commission said Oswald picked up the gun the morning of the assassination and took it to Dallas in a brown paper bag.

The 35-year old woman said she never heard the names Clay L. Shaw, Clay Bertrand, Jack Ruby, or David W. Ferrie before the assassination.