

# Oswald Widow Sees No Value in Her Testimony

She Indicates Appearance Before Jury in New Orleans Failed to Help Garrison

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NEW ORLEANS—Mrs. Marina Oswald Porter testified Thursday in Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and then indicated to newsmen her testimony had been of no value to the investigation.

Nervous and apparently on the verge of tears, the widow of the assassin of President Kennedy rushed from the Criminal Courts Building here after spending several hours before a grand jury.

"No comment, no comment," she replied as newsmen followed her from the building. But she vigorously shook her head when a reporter asked if she thought her testimony had contributed anything to the investigation.

She quickly left New Orleans in a car driven by her husband, Kenneth Jess Porter, an electronics worker from Irwin, Tex., who accompanied her before the jury.

Before coming here from Texas, Marina had denied knowing any of the figures Garrison has associated with the probe and had said she did not think she "could help in Mr. Garrison's work."

She had expressed concern about being subpoenaed to appear here "because Mr. Garrison is so powerful. I don't know if I could prove my innocence to him," she said.

Garrison had no comment on her appearance, but Asst. Dist. Atty. James L. Alcock said she had made a "positive" contribution to the probe. Another source in Garrison's office, however, said her testimony was of no value.

One thing Garrison did get out of Marina's appearance was more publicity, and publicizing of the

probe — including speeches, appearances on national television programs and the issuance of numerous press releases — has resulted in a motion for a change of venue by Clay L. Shaw, New Orleans civic leader who is under indictment on a charge of conspiring to kill Mr. Kennedy.

The motion asks that the trial be removed to a location at least 100 miles from New Orleans, where Shaw claims Garrison has created a "circus-like atmosphere" and prejudiced prospective jurors. Criminal Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. has set a hearing on the motion for March 5.

Shaw's motion accuses Garrison of violating the publicity guidelines issued for the Shaw case by Judge Haggerty and implies the district attorney also has violated the canons of ethics of the American and Louisiana Bar Assns. and those of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Garrison, according to the motion, has publicly proclaimed he is not bound by the guidelines, has never followed them and has no intention of following them.

The 13-page document declares that despite guidelines "to the effect that interviews and public declarations concerning the case should not be made . . . Garrison has made a concerted effort to keep the case in the public eye" by initiating numerous press conferences and news releases, making luncheon and after-dinner speeches, cooperating with magazine writers and participating in radio and television programs.

Such actions, the document alleges, "have created an atmosphere of prejudice, passion, excite-

ment and tyrannical power such as to render impossible a freedom of discussion by the populace, much less the prospective jurors, so as to make the atmosphere in the metropolitan New Orleans area and surrounding parishes incompatible with the essential requirement for the fair and orderly administration of justice."

Garrison is accused of successfully conspiring with authors Mark Lane and Harold Weisberg and Ramparts magazine writer William Turner to prejudice the minds of all prospective jurors here "to the fact that a conspiracy did in fact exist in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy."

The document points out that the authors have backed Garrison in his claim that the Warren commission was erroneous in alleging that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of Kennedy.

The motion charges that Lane, in speeches to New Orleans civic and student groups, has alluded to Shaw's participation in an alleged conspiracy and has done so with Garrison's knowledge and approval.

One of Garrison's "more inflammatory" statements on the case, the document alleges, was contained in a Ramparts article which quotes him as asking who is preventing the public from seeing classified evidence gathered by the Warren Commission and he himself answering:

"The one man who has profited most from the assassination — your friendly President, Lyndon Johnson."

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