

Literature and

Robert Oswald Analyzes Actions of Brother Lee

LEE: A Portrait of Lee Harvey Oswald. By Robert Oswald with Myrick and Barbara Land. Coward-McCann. \$5.95.

By CLARENCE DOUCET

Robert Oswald believes that his brother killed President Kennedy and wounded Gov. John Connally of Texas, and shot and killed officer J. D. Tippit on Nov. 22, 1963, and yet stands ready to be convinced that the Warren Commission was wrong.

However he is quick to add: "I have not yet read or heard or seen any evidence that has shaken my conviction." Of New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's probe, he says: "... I waited with interest for some important new revelation, I am still waiting."

His is an extremely interesting story that is a great deal more than a biography of Lee Oswald. It is one man's very personal opinion of how another man, his brother, came to such a violent end. He is extremely critical of his mother, asserting that Marguerite Oswald, by refusing to recognize Lee's problems as a young boy, contributed to his end: "... she never admitted that there was anything abnormal about Lee's behavior. If she had faced it—if she had seen to it that Lee received the help he needed—I don't think the world would ever have heard of Lee Harvey Oswald."

So, says brother Robert, the sum total of Lee's life was a thousand rejections, and his violent end was determined by the time he was 13.

The author has some thought-provoking theories about Lee Oswald's behavior, claiming that he would usually resort to



ROBERT OSWALD believes brother guilty.



LEE HARVEY OSWALD suffered a thousand rejections.

something spectacular following a rejection. He cites a great many examples beginning in childhood and including his brother's defection to Russia following his general discharge from the Marine Corps, and his activity with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans after he was fired from his job.

While the author may be criticized for his speculation, especially when it takes on psychological considerations, he, nevertheless, seems as qualified as anyone to make assumptions.

His recollection of the first hours and days after the assassination are very revealing. He cites the obvious coldness between Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation

agents; the confusing behavior of the Dallas police, and the flat denial of ministers to officiate at Oswald's funeral. Robert's meeting with Lee Oswald is also described as well as his belief that if he had had more time with his brother he might have learned what happened.

As a witness before the Warren Commission, his criticism of its report—he agrees with its findings, but does have reservations about parts of it—and its method of operation also seem in order.

Under the circumstances, he has written an unusually forthright, apparently sincere appraisal of the man accused of murdering a president and those things that led up to and followed it.