

(480) PMS BUDGET

OSWALD'S MOTHER

BY SID MOODY

AP NEWSFEATURES WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 25 (AP)--ON THE FIRST OF HER THREE DAYS OF TESTIMONY TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD PROCLAIMED: "I AM LIABLE TO NAME SOME VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE."

SHE NEVER DID AS SHE DEFENDED HER SON, LEE HARVEY OSWALD. SHE RAMBLLED ON IN LONG, UNBROKEN PASSAGES.

OVER AND OVER SHE WOULD SAY: "I HAVE MANY STORIES, GENTLEMEN, I AM SURE YOU DO NOT HAVE" OR "I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THIS INFORMATION" OR "I HAVE OFFERED OVER AND OVER TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION I HAVE."

BUT, WHEN PRESSED FOR FACTS BY CHIEF COUNSEL J. LEE RANKIN, SHE COULD ONLY SAY: "IF I KNEW WHO SHOT PRESIDENT KENNEDY, I WOULD BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO TELL YOU." THE PAPERS SHE SAID WOULD EXONERATE HER SON WERE OLD FAMILY PICTURES, LETTERS FROM OSWALD AND SCHOOL RECORDS.

THROUGH HER RAMBLING TESTIMONY GLINT THE FRAGMENTS OF A MOTHER WHO FELT ABANDONED, A WOMAN CAST IN THE SHADOWS OF THE GLARE OF GREAT TRAGEDY, A WOMAN WHO DID NOT SHARE IN THE SYMPATHETIC GENEROSITY OF THE THOUSANDS WHO SENT MONEY TO THE BEREAVED.

AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION, MRS. OSWALD HAD BEEN ESTRANGED FROM OSWALD AND HIS WIFE MARINE FOR A YEAR, DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY HAD HAD A SECOND CHILD. BUT SHE DROPPED EVERYTHING TO RUSH TO HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S SIDE AFTER OSWALD WAS ARRESTED. WHEN MARINA FOUND A PHOTOGRAPH OF OSWALD HOLDING A RIFLE AND BURNED IT, HIS MOTHER FLUSHED THE REMAINS DOWN A TOILET.

A30WX

BUT TWO DAYS LATER, THE DAY OF OSWALD'S FUNERAL, THEY FOUGHT. MARINA WAS TRYING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO DRESSES FOR THE FUNERAL AND BECAME ANNOYED AT JUNE, HER 2-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, FINALLY STRIKING HER ON THE HEAD WITH A COMB.

"MARINA, DON'T DO THAT," SAID MRS. OSWALD. A SECRET SERVICE AGENT ASSIGNED TO THE FAMILY, TOLD MRS. OSWALD: "YOU LET HER ALONE."

"I SAID ' DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO SAY TO MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WHEN SHE WAS HITTING MY GRANDBABY ON THE HEAD WITH A COMB." THEN THEY LEFT FOR THE GRAVEYARD.

SHORTLY AFTER THIS, THE RUPTURE WAS COMPLETE--AS IT REMAINS. MRS. OSWALD TOLD TOLD THE COMMISSION SHE THEN BEGAN TO SUSPECT MARINA

WAS INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY WITH TWO OF THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND "ANOTHER HIGH OFFICIAL" IN THE ASSASSINATION. RANKIN PRESSED FOR DETAILS.

"I HAVE NO PROOF BECAUSE NATURALLY IF I DID, I DON'T THINK WE WOULD BE HERE," MRS. OSWALD SAID. "BUT I FEEL THERE IS A LOT OF SPECULATION ABOUT EVERYTHING."

AS SHE WAS LEAVING THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM AFTER VIEWING HER SON'S BODY, MRS. OSWALD SAID SHE TOLD POLICEMEN: "I THINK SOME DAY YOU WILL HANG YOUR HEADS IN SHAME. I HAPPEN TO KNOW, AND KNOW SOME FACTS, THAT MAYBE THIS IS THE UNSUNG HERO OF THIS EPISODE. AND I, AS HIS MOTHER, INTEND TO PROVIDE THIS IF I CAN."

THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS HER CHANCE.

HER NEAREST APPROACH TO CONCEDED OSWALD'S PART IN THE ASSASSINATION WAS THAT HE WAS AN AGENT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. RANKIN AGAIN ASKED FOR PROOF.

A31WX

"BECAUSE, SAID MRS. OSWALD, HE BEGAN READING COMMUNIST LITERATURE RIGHT AFTER HE HAD TALKED WITH A RECRUITING OFFICER ABOUT JOINING THE MARINES. THIS SHOWED THE GOVERNMENT HAD BIGGER THINGS IN MIND FOR HIM.

BECAUSE HE WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE RUSSIA WITH HIS WIFE SO EASILY. BECAUSE WHEN HE GOT TO FORT WORTH ON HIS RETURN HE WALKED IN FRONT OF MARINA--TO PROTECT HER.

BECAUSE AFTER HE RETURNED FROM THE MARINES HE TOLD HER TO TURN OFF WHAT THREE YEARS BEFORE HAD BEEN HIS FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW, "I LED THREE LIVES FOR THE FBI," BECAUSE HE SAID IT WAS JUST PROPAGANDA.

PB229AES&