

Evidence of Oswald Grudge Cited

Murders are often decided by circumstantial evidence—and the case of Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed President Kennedy, can be judged the same way.

The real mystery is why there has been so much suspicion engendered that someone contrived with Oswald as an accomplice to commit the crime. For there is clear evidence of the grudge of one individual. It is surprising that this has not been given more attention.

The records of the Warren Commission, for instance, show that Lee Harvey Oswald was transferred from active duty in the Marine Corps in 1959 under honorable conditions, but later, when it was learned that he had defected to Russia, he was given an "undesirable" discharge from the Marine Corps Reserves. He was still proud of his service in the Marine Corps and attempted to have the taint removed from his discharge papers. He wrote to the then Secretary of the Navy, John B. Connally, on Jan. 30, 1962, a letter in which he said: "I shall employ all means to right this gross mistake or injustice."

Connally, who had already resigned to run for governor of Texas, wrote back to Oswald that he had forwarded the letter to his successor in the Navy Department. But Oswald continued to nurture his grievance and, when he heard that the Texas governor was going to be in Dallas, may well have made up his mind to get revenge. Connally told the

commission in his testimony: "I am not at all sure he was shooting at me. I think I could with some logic argue either way."

But the fact remains that Oswald was deeply affected by the "undesirable" discharge and sought redress. He owned a rifle and apparently had no hesitancy in using it. The Warren Commission said in its report:

"Even though Oswald apparently did not express any hostility against the President or Governor Connally, he continued to be concerned about his undesirable discharge. It is clear that he thought he had been unjustly treated. . . . He continued his efforts to reverse the discharge by petitioning the Navy Discharge Review Board, which finally declined to modify the discharge and so advised him in a letter dated July 25, 1963."

The Warren Commission, moreover, stated:

"It should be noted that Marina Oswald testified on Sept. 6, 1964, that she thought her husband 'was shooting at Connally rather than President Kennedy.' . . . At the time Oswald fired the shots at the presidential limousine, the governor occupied the seat in front of the President, and it would have been almost impossible for Oswald to have hit the governor without hitting the President first."

It has been inferred that, because Oswald might have had other and more favorable opportunities to strike at the governor, he would not have taken the risk of shooting

Connally when he was riding with Kennedy. But all this ignores the age-old fact that murderers often are governed not by logic but by strange impulses and even may choose a dramatic situation in order to gain public notice. Also, while some plan their crimes a long time in advance, others act on the spur of the moment.

The net result of all the evidence is that Lee Harvey Oswald was bitter and vengeful, not merely against Connally but against the government of the United States as a whole because he felt he had been unjustly treated. The idea that someone else was involved has nothing tangible to support it. Discussion, however, will continue in the future as it always has in the past on spectacular murders. When new theories are introduced, the simple facts on record which establish the motive are often ignored.

Oswald turned to communism, as many other persons of unstable minds have done, but his objective was to get attention. He joined the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He went to the Soviet Union and sought to renounce his American citizenship, but later abandoned the idea and brought his Russian wife to the United States.

A deranged mind needs no accomplice. Lee Harvey Oswald was bitter at his fate, and used his rifle against the man or men he believed to be responsible for his disgrace. What more motive for a crime does an impassioned or disordered mind need?