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NIGHT LEAD OSWALD'S MOTHER (480)

BY MIKE COCHRAN

FORT WORTH, TEX., DEC. 2 (AP)-MRS. MARGUERITE OSWALD SAID TODAY SHE WANTS TO REVEAL IN A BOOK THE ENTIRE STORY OF HER LIFE AND THAT OF HER FAMILY.

MRS. OSWALD, MOTHER OF THE ACCUSED SLAYER OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SAID THE BOOK WILL INCLUDE ALL FACETS OF THE OSWALD FAMILY LIFE UP UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME.

STILL UNDER 24-HOUR GUARD BY THE SECRET SERVICE, MRS. OSWALD GREETED NEWSMEN TODAY AT HER MODEST DUPLEX APARTMENT IN THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SECTION OF FORT WORTH.

DRESSED IN A BLACK DRESS, THE 56-YEAR-OLD PRACTICAL NURSE GRASPED THE HAND OF A REPORTER AND SAID QUIETLY, POLITELY:

"THANK YOU FOR COMING."

SHE SAID QUICKLY, ALMOST APOLOGETICALLY, THAT SHE DID NOT INTEND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME.

SHE SMILED FAINTLY AND ADDED THAT SHE HOPED TO CLEAR UP ONCE AND FOR ALL THE "UNTRUTHS" ABOUT HER SON, LEE HARVEY, IN A NEWS CONFERENCE SOMETIME LATER.

ASKED WHEN, SHE REPLIED:

"THAT IS THE SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR QUESTION."

SHE SAT ON A SOFA AND TALKED BRIEFLY OF EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS.

"I HAVE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND SOME HAVE CONTAINED SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS," SHE SAID.

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT, STANDING NEARBY, THEN NOTED THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN A "CRANK" LETTER AMONG THOSE RECEIVED. HE SAID THE CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTED TO SLIGHTLY MORE THAN \$100.

"MANY OF THE LETTERS CAME FROM MOTHERS LIKE MYSELF," MRS. OSWALD CONTINUED. "MANY SAY THAT THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS LIKE--WHAT I AM GOING THROUGH.

"THERE ARE FUNDS AND DONATIONS OF ALL KINDS--BUT I AM NOT INCLUDED IN ANY.

"I AM A WIDOW. SUDDENLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY SON'S WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN HAS BEEN THRUST UPON ME.

"I DO NOT HAVE A JOB. I HOPE TO FIND WORK, BUT . . .

"I DO NOT FEEL I CAN WORK RIGHT NOW. ALL THIS HAS BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME."

SHE WOULD NOT DIVULGE THE WHEREABOUTS OF HER SON'S FAMILY.

SHE EXPRESSED DEEP FAITH IN HER SON, WHO WAS SHOT DOWN BY DALLAS NIGHTCLUB OWNER JACK RUBY 48 HOURS AFTER THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON NOV. 22.

"MY SON IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY. THAT IS THE AMERICAN WAY. HE DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND HIMSELF. I SAW HIM SAY ON TELEVISION:

" 'I DID NOT DO IT! I DID NOT DO IT! ' "

MRS. OSWALD EARLIER TOLD A REPORTER, AT TIMES ANGRILY AND TEARFULLY, THAT SHE BLAMED AUTHORITIES FOR THE SLAYING OF HER SON.

SHE ALSO BLAMED GOVERNMENT AGENTS AND DALLAS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

SHE SAID PROTECTIVE PRECAUTIONS WERE BEING TAKEN BEFORE KENNEDY ARRIVED IN NEIGHBORING DALLAS. SINCE HER SON WAS KNOWN TO HAVE DEFECTED TO RUSSIA AT ONE TIME, MRS. OSWALD ASKED WHY HE WAS NOT UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

"I WOULD LIKE AN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION," SHE SAID.

MRS. OSWALD SAID SHE WOULD ACCEPT THE FINDING OF A STATE COURT OF INQUIRY HEADED BY TEXAS ATTY. GEN. WAGGONER CARR INTO CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ASSASSINATION.

"IF THEY ARE PROVEN FACTS, I WILL ACCEPT THEM," SHE SAID. "BUT I WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO VERIFY THAT THEY ARE PROVEN FACTS . . .

"I WANT ANOTHER QUESTION ANSWERED: WHY WOULD JACK RUBY BE ALLOWED WITHIN A FEW FEET OF A PRISONER--OF ANY PRISONER--WHEN I COULD NOT SEE MY OWN SON?"

OSWALD WAS SLAIN IN THE DALLAS CITY HALL BY RUBY, WHO MOVED THROUGH A CROWD OF REPORTERS AND POLICEMEN AS OSWALD WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO COUNTY JAIL.

MRS. OSWALD SAID SHE SAW HER SON ONCE WHILE HE WAS IN THE DALLAS CITY JAIL. SHE SAID SHE TALKED WITH HIM BRIEFLY NOV. 23 AND DID NOT ASK HIM WHETHER HE HAD SHOT THE PRESIDENT.

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THE PRESIDENT.

"I WOULDN'T INSULT HIM BY ASKING HIM IF HE DID IT," MRS. OSWALD SAID LATER.

SHE QUOTED HER SON AS SAYING AT THE TIME:

"DON'T WORRY. I KNOW MY RIGHTS. I'M GOING TO GET ME A LAWYER AND EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT."

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SHE SAID THREE NURSES AT A NURSING HOME HERE THREATENED TO QUIT UNLESS SHE WAS FIRED.

"SO, THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO BUT LET ME GO," SHE ADDED.

MRS. OSWALD WOULD NOT NAME THE NURSING HOME AND EFFORTS TO SUBSTANTIATE THE DISMISSAL WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY SUCCESSFUL.

CONCERNING THE BOOK SHE WANTS TO WRITE, SHE SAID:

"I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED SEVERAL OFFERS, AND I AM EXPECTING SEVERAL MORE. AFTER THEY ARE ALL IN, MY ATTORNEY WILL CHOOSE THE BEST AND WE'LL GET TO WORK."

SHE DECLINED TO NAME THE ATTORNEY.

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