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Henry J. Taylor**The Canny Oswald**

DALLAS — For years it has been a federal offense to threaten the life of a President. Never, until after President Kennedy's assassination, had it been a federal offense to kill our Chief Executive.

Accordingly, the statutory responsibility fell here. And the man it fell on is Homicide Bureau Chief J. Will Fritz of the Dallas Police Department. The regional FBI, Secret Service, U.S. postal inspectors, etc., and additional teams sent from Washington all worked through Captain Fritz.

IT IS an eerie feeling to sit alone with him in his small, 14-by-9½-foot office where he led the questioning of Lee Harvey Oswald for 12 hours. "I didn't have trouble with him," Captain Fritz said, "if we just talked quietly like we are talking now, until I asked him a question that meant something, a question that would produce evidence. Then, every time, Oswald immediately said he wouldn't talk about it and seemed to anticipate what I was going to ask."

The regional FBI chief here is veteran investigator J. Gordon Shanklin, famous in the bureau. Says his special agent James W. Bookhout, whom Shanklin placed at most of Fritz's interrogations: "Any time you asked a question pertinent to the investigation Oswald refused to discuss it."

Yet this is the Lee Harvey Oswald that William Manchester has the unmitigated gall in "The Death of a President" to falsely state "we know" went insane at

9:30 the previous night. This is the cool, canny Communist that millions have been led to believe was a "crackpot."

I find that none of the investigation participants here are in touch with New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. Not one. The men who know the most about the horror here November 22 remain to day absolutely convinced that Oswald performed alone.

Garrison's contentions take on a totally different projection through their eyes than our public has any reason to grasp.

They know Louisiana law, much of which comes uniquely from French Napoleonic roots. And, surprisingly, they can see how both Garrison and they themselves may be right.

The Louisianan claims a conspiracy. Under Louisiana law Garrison has only to prove that conspiratorial discussion did, in fact, occur, whether anybody did anything about it or not. He does not have to prove participation in President Kennedy's assassination.

Should Garrison be able to take an additional very long step beyond this, of course, and prove that Clay Shaw or any alleged conspirator paid or otherwise abetted Oswald, and can prove Oswald was the assassin, the abettor could be convicted as an accessory to the murder.

HOWEVER, a fact that I find unfathomable to the knowing officials here will be the subject of a second article Monday.

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FILED OSWALD