

12/6/63

MOTHER IS TRYING TO CLEAR OSWALD

She Examines Records—
Hints He Was Scapegoat

By JACK LANGGUTH
Special to The New York Times.

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 5 — Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said today she would attempt to prove that her son, Lee H. Oswald, had not assassinated President Kennedy.

Mrs. Oswald, whose son was shot to death in the Dallas jail two days after the assassination, called a news conference for tomorrow at 2 P.M.

She has been complaining about what she considers discrepancies and gaps in the official reconstruction of the Nov. 22 crime.

She is studying records and correspondence bearing on aspects of her son's life, particularly a period in New York when he was in the custody of the juvenile court for truancy.

Mrs. Oswald, a 56-year-old practical nurse, has been angered by newspaper and television accounts suggesting that her son received an undesirable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1959.

Says She'll Show Data

She will produce papers tomorrow, she said, proving that the conditions of his discharge were changed from honorable to undesirable only after the Navy Department learned he had defected to the Soviet Union.

Spending her first day without Secret Service protection since her son was killed, Mrs. Oswald suggested to visitors that the assassination had been a plot for which her son had been made the "scapegoat."

"If my son had killed the President," she said, "he would have said so. That's the way he was brought up.

"Certainly a man who showed the courage of his convictions, by going to Russia when that was an unpopular thing to do would have told the truth. If he had done it, he would have said, 'Yes, I killed the President.'

"But after he said he had not, then he was insulted to be asked to take a lie-detector test. His word, until proved otherwise, was as good as anybody's.

"He's like me in that respect. Robert is different. If he had been asked to take a lie-detector test, he would have done it."

Brother a Sales Official

Robert Oswald, five years older than Lee, is a sales official with a brick company in nearby Denton.

Earlier Mrs. Oswald had considered that a posthumous trial of Oswald might bring out information about the killing of the President, a Dallas police officer and her son.

She has since decided, however, that neither a trial nor any kind of investigation could establish her son's guilt to her satisfaction.

"How could he be found guilty by an investigation when he's not here to defend himself?" she asked. "That's not the American way."