

Book Views Role of Oswald's Wife

A member of the Warren Commission has speculated that Mrs. Marina Oswald may have unwittingly goaded Lee Harvey Oswald to murder President Kennedy by refusing to live with him. The conjecture is in a book to be released June 14.

Copies of the work, by the House Republican Leader Representative Gerald R. Ford Jr. of Michigan, and an aide, were made available today.

Entitled "Portrait of the Assassin," the volume is a narrative constructed from testimony before the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which investigated the circumstances surrounding President Kennedy's death. Twenty-six volumes of testimony and exhibits before the commission have already been published.

Representative Ford and his co-author, Frederick E. Stiles, point out testimony complimentary to Mrs. Oswald.

The Russian-born Mrs. Oswald, 23 years old, married Kenneth Jess Porter, 27, a divorced electronics worker, in Texas nine days ago. In the months since her husband was

shot by Jack L. Ruby on Nov. 24, 1963, she has been given large sums of money by sympathetic Americans.

Commission Not Disputed

The authors emphasize that their interpretation of the Warren Commission testimony "is not intended to take issue with the conclusions of the Commission." But their narrative is interlarded with their own evaluation of the testimony. They write:

"One of the mysteries never to be solved, unless Marina in years to come recalls something she has not yet re-

lated, is whether Lee had actually made up his mind to kill when he went out to Irving or whether the decision was still hanging fire, perhaps depending on whether Marina accepted what appeared to be his peace offers and agreed to come to Dallas to live with him."

The couple had been living separately. The visit to Irving, where Ors. Oswald resided, was made Nov. 21, 1963, the day before Oswald shot the President.

The authors note:

"He could have made up his mind to shoot at the President regardless of the outcome of his quarrel with Marina."

But they continue:

"That he was sensitive, however, to Marina's refusal to take an apartment with him there can be no question. The incident she related about her asking for a washing machine, and his agreeing, reminds one of the point [George] de Mohrenschildt [a friend of the Oswalds] stressed to the effect that she was always demanding things he could not give."

The authors ask "how much" was Oswald upset. They continue:

"Enough so that her rejection of his offer to come back would make the difference between the decision to kill or not to kill?"

Having raised these questions in the 510-page, \$6.95 book, published by Simon and Schuster, they conclude, "In all likelihood history will never be able to judge."

There was no immediate comment from Mrs. Oswald, now Mrs. Porter.