

10 S. F. News Call Bulletin ☆ Mon., Sept. 28, 1964

Some Laxity In Procedures Is Criticized

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Warren Commission accused the State Department of using some lax procedures with returning defectors.

But the commission made clear the department "followed the law throughout" in helping to bring Lee Harvey Oswald back from Russia.

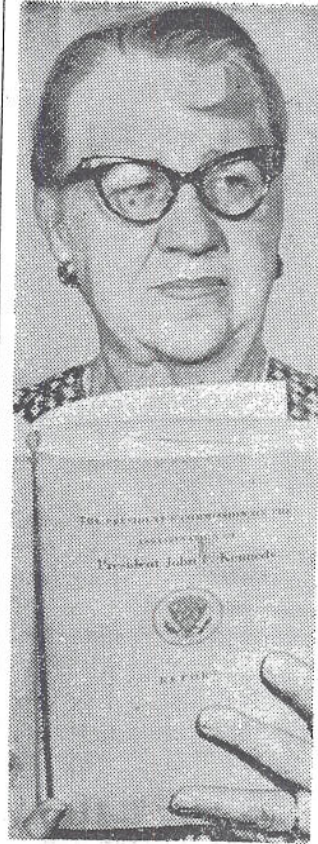
Hindsight shows, the commission said, the "tragic irony" of the State Department's facilitating the return—on grounds that it was in the best interests of the country—of the man who "fired . . . the shots which killed President Kennedy."

THE REPORT disclosed that at one point the State

Department, wanting the troublesome Oswald out of the Soviet Union "as soon as possible," successfully urged the Immigration and Naturalization Service to drop its opposition to a U. S. entry visa for Oswald's Russian wife.

But the report absolved State Department officials of any favoritism, impropriety or disloyalty in the case involving the avowed Marxist who tired of Soviet life after 2½ years.

The commission decided that although Oswald was known to be unstable and unpredictable, "there was no reasonable basis in 1961 and 1962 for suspecting that upon his re-admittance to the country he would resort



MARGUERITE OSWALD
"This is not justice"

to violence against its public officials."

ITS CRITICISM dealt specifically with failure of the department on two occasions to post "lookout cards" on Oswald's passport file.

This is a system supposed to guard against routine issuing of passports to questionable persons.

While the "obviously deficient" operation on this system in Oswald's case did not affect the outcome, the commission said:

"The department in accordance with its own regulations should in all cases exercise great care in the return to this country of defectors who have evidenced disloyalty or hostility to this country or who have expressed a desire to renounce their American citizenship . . ."

State Department officials said Sunday that after the assassination, they adopted a special watch list system on defectors, exchanging this information with other government agencies.