

Laxity On Oswald's Passport Is Probed

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON—In June, 1963, five months before he assassinated President John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald obtained a passport to go to Russia.

This passport, for himself only, was issued in New Orleans the day after he applied for it. That was done without the customary "name check" required for persons known to be Communists or to have Communist associations.

At the time Oswald was granted the passport to travel to Russia, there was a detailed file on him in the State Department recording the following:

That Oswald had formally declared his "defection" to the Soviet in the U.S. embassy in Moscow; that he had married a Russian whose father is a colonel in the Soviet intelligence service; that Oswald had been arrested in New Orleans for distributing virulent pro-Castro literature; that he had mysterious ties with a certain government agency.

AS IN THE matter of the required "name check," this incriminatory State Depart-

ment file apparently was completely ignored in giving Oswald a passport to Russia the day after he asked for it.

This sensational discovery by the special presidential investigating commission has focused attention on Abba Schwartz, controversial head of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs. In this capacity, he has jurisdiction over the Passport Division.

SCHWARTZ is definitely slated to be interrogated by the special commission.

As a result of Mrs. Marina Oswald's testimony and information from other sources, the assassination probers want the State Department official to clarify a number of matters, among them the following:

—Whether Oswald's passport application was referred to Schwartz for decision; if not, why not; and if it was, why the passport was authorized in view of Oswald's "defection" record.

—What was done about Oswald's State Department file the day President Kennedy was murdered. Commission members have been told this file was removed and locked in Schwartz' desk not long after Oswald's arrest was announced. Also that Schwartz and Abram Chayes, legal advisor of the State Department, conferred repeatedly that day.

—Full details of the granting of visas to Oswald and his Russian wife to come to the U. S. in 1962—after he spent three years in Russia. This aspect of the case involves a mysterious official in another government agency who reputedly had a hand in securing these visas and providing funds for Oswald's return. This money included \$435.71 borrowed from the U. S. embassy in Moscow, which Oswald repaid between October, 1962, and January, 1963.