A162

New York, Sept. 30 (AP)- A let er written in Russia by presidential assassin Lee Harvey <sup>O</sup>swald sold for \$3,000 at auction tonight, almost twice the amount bid for some letters written by Mrs. John F. Kennedy when she was first lady.

MIST

David Kirschenbaum, operator of the Carnegie Book Shop, was successful bidder on both the <sup>O</sup>swald letter and the lette s from Mrs. Kennedy to actor Basil Rathbone.

Kirschenbaum paid \$1,600 for the notes Mrs. Kennedy wrote Rathbone not long before her husband was killed.

Other letters and mememtoes of Oswald and letters written by Mrs. A ennedy and her late husband also were auctioned by Charles Hamilton in the Gotham Hotel.

Just before the auction, the hotel management in a statement expressed disapproval of Hamilton's decision to auction the letters of Mrs. Kennedy and Oswald. The hotel said it considered the auction in "bad taste."

It had been reported that Mrs. Kennedy was unhappy about the letters<sup>®</sup> sale, particularly those sent to Rathbone dealing with apoetic reading he had given at the White House.

A spokesman for Hamilton said he did not feel there was anything in poor taste in the auction of the Oswald or Mrs. Kennedy letters.

"They both are public figures and their letters are collectios" items," said the spokesman. "Mrs. Kennedy became a public figure the day she married Senator Kennedy."

The high priced Oswald letter describes to his mother the things that had embittered him against the United States and told of his efforts to return to American after having denounced his citizenship.

Kirschenbaum, who described himself as a dealer in rare manuscripts, refused to be pulled into any discussion with newsmen on his feelings about the propriety of the Kennedy and Oswald letter selling

"I'm a dealer, this is my business," he said.

ts1018ped

A184dn

New York -- first add Oswald auction (A162) x x x business," he sa: In Fort Worth, Tex., Oswald's mother said she hopedto get anough money from the auction to finance a trip to Russia.

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald said she wants to go to Russia to gather information she believes will prove her son's innocence. She said part of the sroty of her son's stay in that co ntry "is missing and the Warren Commission report didn't tell all."

Mrs. Oswald said she "cried many tears" before deciding to sell the items. She said she hoped the letters and birth certificate would bring between \$3,000 and \$10,000.

ja944pcs