

Advisers Dismissed By Oswald's Widow

By JACK LANGGUTH

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DALLAS, Feb. 22 — Mrs. Lee H. Oswald has terminated her agreements with the lawyer and the business adviser who had represented her since the shooting of her husband.

She has engaged as her new attorney William A. McKenzie of Dallas. Mr. McKenzie is the lawyer who accompanied her brother-in-law, Robert Oswald, during his testimony in Washington this week before the Warren Commission.

John Thorne, her former attorney, said he had no comment on Mrs. Oswald's decision. James H. Martin, her former business adviser, could not be reached for comment.

Mrs. Oswald and her two children, who had been living with Mr. Martin and his family in Dallas, have moved to a private house in the city.

Mr. Martin had announced

last week that Mrs. Oswald had signed contracts with Meredith Press in Des Moines, Iowa, for the book rights to her memoirs and with Tex-Italia Films, an Italian company, for the motion picture rights.

Her change of attorneys will entangle the terms of those contracts, according to one source.

It is understood that Mr. Thorne is taking the position that the contracts Mrs. Oswald signed as his client are binding. He and Mr. Martin are said to be attempting to persuade her to reconsider her decision.

Mr. Martin had previously declined to disclose the terms of the contracts already signed or the share apportioned to him and to Mr. Thorne.

At the last accounting, Mrs. Oswald and her two girls, 2-year-old June and 4-month-old Rachel, had received about \$40,000 from Americans concerned over their plight.

Mrs. Oswald's husband was charged with the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas last Nov. 22. Two days later he himself was killed by Jack L. Ruby, who is now standing trial.

Placed in Custody

After her husband's death, Mrs. Oswald and her children were placed in protective custody by the Secret Service at a motel on the outskirts of Dallas. Born in Russia, Mrs. Oswald spoke little English at the time.

Oswald's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, and his brother, Robert, were also taken to the motel, where Mr. Martin was employed as the assistant manager.

Robert Oswald, sales manager for a brick company, decided that his home in Denton, some 30 miles from Dallas, was too small for his sister-in-law, her two children and the Secret Service agents assigned to protect her.

Mr. Martin volunteered to share his home and to leave his job at the motel to act as her agent. Robert Oswald approved the arrangement, and Mr. Martin then selected Mr. Thorne, who practices in suburban Grand Prairie, to serve as Mrs. Oswald's lawyer.

Until her recent trip to Washington to testify before the Presidential commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren which is investigating the assassination, Mrs. Oswald had been kept in strict seclusion by her advisers.

Denied Coercion

Last month, after repeated attempts to meet with her had failed, the Dallas Civil Liberties Union wrote to her in Russian to ask if she was being held against her will.

She wrote back, also in Russian, that she was as happy as she could be under the circumstances and that she appreciated the protection of the Secret Service.

Mrs. Oswald said at that time that she had not got in touch with friends she had made before the assassination because she wanted to spare them further involvement in the case.

Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Mrs. Oswald had been living at the time of the assassination, has not been permitted to see her during the last three months.

Mrs. Paine, who speaks fluent Russian, has questioned the wisdom of isolating Mrs. Oswald so entirely from everyone but her business and legal advisers.