

Random Notes From All Over: Wife-Beating Puzzles Bachelor

Russell's Curiosity Strong —A Mississippi Victim's Poem to Be Published

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 —

Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, a 67-year-old bachelor, displayed what might be described as persistent curiosity about married non-bliss when Marina Oswald, the widow of President Kennedy's assassin, testified before the Warren Commission.

Mr. Russell was a member of the commission. Here is the core of the exchange:

SENATOR RUSSELL: Did he [Oswald] ever beat you in Russia before you came to this country?

MRS. OSWALD: No.

Q. Had you ever heard of any husband striking his wife in Russia?

A. It seems that beating of wives by the Russian husbands is a rather common thing in the Soviet Union and that is why I was afraid to marry a Russian.

Q. I see. Do they beat them with anything other than their hands? There was a law in my state at one time that a man could whip his wife as long as he didn't use a switch that was larger than his thumb. That law has been repealed. But did they ever whip their wives with anything other than their hands in Russia?

A. I do not know. I was not interested in what manner they beat their wives.

Q. That's difficult for me to believe, that a very charming and attractive girl who has been courted by a number of men—I would have thought you would have been greatly interested in all the aspects of matrimony.

A. How would I know?

Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat of Louisiana, changed the questioning to another subject.