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nl commission

washington, March 19 (AP)- A witness who has been giving detailed ~~xxxx~~ testimony about her personal recollections of Lee Harvey Oswald said today she now is convinced he tried to shoot retired Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker last year.

Mrs. Michael Paine made the statement to reporters after completing her second day in closed session with the commission investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Paine said the investigators were particularly interested in her knowledge of Oswald's ability with a car because they wanted to determine whether he could have driven himself away after the unsuccessful attempt to shoot Walker.

"I am now convinced that Lee made the attempt," she said, after recounting that she had told the investigators how she had tried to teach Oswald how to drive last year because "he was obviously a novice."

Mrs. Paine, who twice brought Mrs. Marina Oswald into her home in Irving, near Dallas, Tex., also told reporters she never suspected that Oswald was capable of assassinating the President "although the evidence indicates that he was guilty -- but the evidence is circumstantial," she added.

She reported turning over to the commission letters she had received from Marina last year when the Oswalds were living in New Orleans. There was no mention in the letters, she said, of any Fair Play for Cuba Committee, in which Oswald was interested at that time.

Mrs. Paine said Mrs. Oswald's letters referred to her fear that she might have to return to Russia, where she met and married Oswald.

Mrs. Paine said she was "depressed" by the trial of Jack Ruby for the slaying of Oswald. She didn't question the guilty verdict but objected to the sentence because she said she is opposed to capital punishment.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, who heads the commission, said Mrs. Paine will return tomorrow morning to complete her testimony, described by

Sen. John Sherman Cooper, R-Ky., a ~~com~~mission member, as "exhaustive and thorough."

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