

# Much of Nation Reacts Critically to Murder of Accused Assassin

(By Associated Press)

Much of the nation reacted with sharp criticism against the shooting Sunday of Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President Kennedy.

But there were some who felt the slaying was justified — a few even suggesting Oswald's assailant should be decorated for this act.

"I think it is ridiculous," said Barbara Smiet of Chicago. "Now maybe somebody will shoot the guy who shot Oswald. What are they gaining by it?"

An unidentified woman, who called the Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union moments after she witnessed the shooting of Oswald on television said: "They ought to give whoever did it the Congressional Medal of Honor."

Police have identified Oswald's assailant as Jack Ruby, 50, a Dallas nightclub owner.

The slaying was witnessed as it actually took place at Dallas city jail by countless thousands on television viewers across the nation.

At the Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago, Seaman Darryl Henry, 18, of Salisbury, Md., said the man who shot Oswald "had no right to do it."

"He (Oswald) had not been proven guilty," Henry said. "Even if Oswald were guilty the man had no right to take the life of another with his own hands."

A Chicago cab driver Carl Moore, 50, had other ideas. "Good," he said of the shooting. "It was justified. The man who did it is a nut but he (Oswald) got what he deserved."

An unidentified Pittsburgh, Pa. man, questioned on the street, said "I don't see why anyone would do that. That didn't do any good at all."

Lawrence Markiewicz, 35, a building guard in Chicago, agreed. "I don't think he had the right,"

he said of Oswald's assailant. "I don't know what would have motivated somebody like him (Ruby).

A Chicago homicide detective, said he felt "the guy who shot Oswald should get a medal."

Comment from the man on the street in Minneapolis, included: "It's a bad thing. We'll never know if he was guilty."

"It's wrong, it's not our way of life."

"It's not the way to do it, it's a throwback to the old vigilante days."

"It's a bad reflection on our country—that it can happen in this land of law and order to a man in custody and not proven guilty."

Hyman Pressman, Baltimore city comptroller said, "The American public has exercised extraordinary restraint thus far, and I hope this new incident will not touch off any further irrespons-

ible acts of violence. Such acts do not do the country a bit of good."

Another Baltimore resident, David Hyman, said: "They ought to put the city (of Dallas) under martial law. You don't know what's liable to happen out there."

"What do we do now?" asked Dudley Maddern, a New Yorker passing through Times Square. "It was a very stupid thing to do."

Another Times Square stroller, a woman who declined her name, said of Oswald: "I wish he had lived to suffer."

Henry Rawsley of Orange, N.J., told a Times Square interviewer, "I just think it's wrong. It's wrong to shoot anybody or to kill anybody. I can understand it, but it's wrong."

"I wanted him (Oswald) to live," said New Yorker Louis Perry, "so that we could see what other connections he had."