

McCone Denies Any CIA Tie With Oswald

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Mrs. Marguerite Oswald's charge that her son was an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency "set up to take the blame" for the assassination of President Kennedy was flatly denied today by the CIA.

CIA Director John A. McCone said that Lee Harvey Oswald, suspected assassin of Mr. Kennedy, "was never directly or indirectly connected with CIA."

Mrs. Oswald made the charge yesterday as she ended a three-day talkfest before the presidential commission investigating the assassination. She repeated her allegation at a later news conference.

Allegation Not Backed Up

Chief Justice Earl Warren, commission chairman, told newsmen that Mrs. Oswald presented no single fact nor combination of facts to support her allegation.

He said correspondence she had and her own speculation led her to this conclusion that Oswald was a CIA agent. He repeated the word "speculation" to underline it for reporters.

In answer to a question, he said the commission has received no information from any Government agency to substantiate Mrs. Oswald's claim that her son was an intelligence agent.

The commission is taking a breather from hearing witnesses until next week when one or two witnesses—not identified by the Chief Justice—are expected to testify.

No Change in Picture

After listening to Mrs. Oswald tell the story of her own life, her son's life, and the lives of other members of her family, the Chief Justice had this comment on her testimony:

"She has not given us any facts that would change the picture as we knew it up to the time she testified.

"She did not profess to give us any facts that would definitely prove anything in connection with the assassination.

"But she does contend that the correspondence she presented and her own testimony taken together in entirety presented a much different picture than that which has been given to the public up to the present time."

Chief Justice Warren said the correspondence she presented had no particular significance and consisted of letters to public officials referring to Oswald's efforts to come back from Moscow in 1959.

Mrs. Oswald had obviously wanted to talk to the press since the first day of her appearance, but the lawyer appointed for her by the District Bar Association vetoed the idea until she had completed her testimony.

Once before newsmen and television cameras, Mrs. Oswald talked fast and positively. She referred to her son as the "scrapgoat" which newsmen considered a slip of the tongue for "scapegoat" until the fourth time she repeated it.

Another oddity of her performance was her insistent reference to her son in the present tense. For instance, she said, "I believe Lee Harvey Oswald is an intelligence agent."

She reiterated her belief in her son's innocence and said she had "pertinent evidence" that her son did not kill the President.

Received Any Letters

She said she has received over 1,500 letters which "we are now analyzing; we are doing our own investigation."

By "we" she was referring to Mark Lane, a New York attorney now on a speaking tour, proclaiming Oswald innocent.

Mrs. Oswald plans to go on the lecture circuit, too. When she continued to insist that Oswald was an intelligence agent, she was asked on what she based this belief.

"I have many, many documents to base that on," she replied. "I have as much circumstantial evidence that he was an agent as the Dallas police have that Lee Oswald murdered the President."

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