

# Oswald, a Man of Many Troubles, Took Marxism as His Gospel While a Teen-Ager

## ONETIME MARINE HATED THE CORPS

Assassin, Always Poor, Once Tried Life in Soviet Union —Backed Castro's Rule

By PETER KIHSS

A teen-ager who discovered Karl Marx's socialism as a new gospel. . . . A Marine who believed the occupation of Japan was imperialistic and who developed a grievance against the Corps. . . . An American who went to the Soviet Union and then decided factory life under Communism there was not for him. . . .

A propagandist for Castro Cuba who tried to penetrate anti-Castro operations as, in effect, a fifth columnist. . . . A man who has been said by one of his most recent associates to have "refused to eschew violence." . . . This was Lee Harvey Oswald.

Ended by A Bullet

His troubled life came to an end yesterday at the age of 24 years, one month, six days. . . . The end came with a bullet wound in the abdomen. The shot was fired point blank by a night club operator in the Dallas police headquarters where Oswald had been charged with the assassination of President Kennedy two days earlier.

Oswald denied killing the President. For three days the life and mind of Lee Oswald have been the center of national inquiries, ransacking the memories of schoolmates, fellow servicemen, neighbors. . . . The story is far from final, far from firm.

He was born Oct. 18, 1939, in New Orleans. His father had died before he was born. His widowed mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, raised him with two other sons.

Most of his early life, he said, was spent in Fort Worth, but his family moved around considerably. He remembered his mother as working in shops. She remembered him as going to work at odd jobs at an early age, always bringing home what he earned and never spending it on himself, she said.

"He was a boy who helped his mother," she said.

Had Plenty to Eat

One school he went to was Ridgela elementary school in Fort Worth, where he was taught in sixth grade in 1951 by Mrs. Howard L. Green.

Mrs. Green said yesterday he was "not under-privileged" and "had plenty to eat," not needing an occasional nickel or dime loan from his teacher as some did.

He and another child may have had "a little bit of troublemaker" in them, Mrs. Green said, but "there was nothing in his background that would turn him away from a free society toward Communism."

Mrs. N. M. Merrett was principal when the school was first opened in the suburban community of Ridgela, West in September, 1949. Oswald was a transfer student, entering in the fourth grade.

He was "kind of smily, a boy with curly hair, hair that was tousled, with the way curly hair gets," Mrs. Merrett remembered yesterday. "He was a very lively boy, a wiggly boy, always on the move."

Grades Varied

On citizenship, he made an A in the fourth grade, B's in the fifth and sixth grades. His grades were low in spelling, English, arithmetic. He had a grade of 4 in a standardized achievement test in the fourth grade, against a normal 4.5; 4 in the fifth grade, against a normal 5.5; but 7.4 in the sixth grade, as against a normal 6.5.

"Back in 1959, when the news came about his trip to Russia," Mrs. Merrett said, "I remembered what I could about Lee. At that time I said to myself that I could not have foreseen that he would be a person who would go bad."

When he was 13 and 14 years old, Oswald lived in the Bronx, from September, 1952, until January, 1954. It was a rootless period.

He attended Trinity Lutheran School, 2125 Watson Avenue, for three weeks. Then he transferred to Junior High School 117, 1865 Morris Avenue, as a seventh grader. When his family moved to a new school zone, he transferred in March, 1953, to Junior High School 44, 1825 Prospect Avenue, remaining there until January, 1954.

Oswald's grades were barely passable, according to school records dug out by Nicholas Ciochetti, the present principal of Junior High School 44. His teachers rated him satisfactory in courtesy and effort, unsatisfactory in dependability, cooperation and self-control.

It was 1954 when he entered Beauregard Junior High School in New Orleans. One classmate, Edward Collier, said:

"We called him Yank because he had a Yankee accent. He had a lot of fights. One friend he had was Edward Voebel."

In a Columbia Broadcasting System telecast yesterday Mr. Voebel said that he met Oswald when another boy punched Oswald in the mouth. Mr. Voebel said some other youngsters had put the puncher up to it, although he might not have known Oswald.

Mr. Voebel and two other boys picked Oswald up off the ground, and brought him back to the school to put cold compresses on his mouth. Like others had done, Mr. Voebel said Oswald was a "loner," not interested in extracurricular activities. He doubted Oswald's own story of having been in-



ATTACKER IS SEIZED: Policemen surround Jack Ruby, who shot Lee Harvey Oswald yesterday at city jail in Dallas as he was about to be transferred to the county jail. Incident is shown in part of a frame from TV tape made by Columbia Broadcasting System.

terested in Marxist ideas at 15. Although reported a below-average student at Beauregard, Oswald scored well on his achievement tests when he entered Warren Easton High School in New Orleans. With 55 per cent considered average, he made 88 per cent in reading, 85 per cent in vocabulary.

On his high school questionnaire, he listed as his favorite subjects: civics, mathematics and science. Vocational choices: biology and mechanical drawing. Favorite pastimes: reading and outdoor sports, such as football. Close personal friends: none.

He entered Warren Easton on Sept. 8, 1955. Shortly he was promoted again. On Oct. 5, 1955, his mother wrote the school saying the family was leaving for San Diego, Calif. Six months later, school officials received a letter from Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth requesting his transcript.

In Tulsa, Okla., Mrs. James Giles told C.B.S. yesterday she had taken a world history class with Oswald. She said:

"If the teacher asked a question in world history class, Lee would give the answer. But he did it in such a way as to come back with a question in kind of a sarcastic way. . . . He was lonely, and he didn't seem to be living like the rest of the students. He didn't seem happy in any way. He didn't seem to be able to converse with anyone, as a friend would converse with anyone."

Poor Grades Recalled

In Salt Lake City, Kathleen Willett, another former Fort Worth student, said she had sat next to Oswald in biology class. He did not study, she said. He got poor grades. He "never seemed to have any friends—maybe that was part of his trouble."

This was the time, according to a reporter, that Oswald remembered becoming interested in Marxism. The reporter, Aline Mosby, a United Press International correspondent, interviewed him in Moscow in 1959, three years after those school days.

"I played baseball and football in high school," Oswald told her. "I had a certain amount of friends, but I don't have many attachments now in the United States. In my childhood I enjoyed a few benefits of American society. I was a bookworm."

Read About Rosenbergs

"I'm a Marxist. I became interested about the age of 15. An old lady handed me a pamphlet about saving the Rosenbergs. [Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted on March 29, 1951, of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union; they were executed on June 30, 1953.]"

"I still remember that pamphlet about the Rosenbergs. I don't know why. Then we moved to North Dakota and I discovered one book in the library, 'Das Kapital.' It was what I'd been looking for. It was like a very religious man opening the Bible for the first time."

"I started to study Marxist economic theories. I could see the impoverishment of the masses before my own eyes in my own mother. I thought the worker's life could be better. I found some Marxist books on shelves in the New Orleans library and continued to indoctrinate myself for five years."

This meant it would have continued through his Marine Corps career. He was seven days past 17 when he enlisted in the Marines at Dallas on Oct. 24, 1956.

From then to January, 1957, he underwent recruit training in San Diego. Then through February, advanced training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. From March to May, 1957, he was trained in aviation electronics operations at Jacksonville, Fla. Then he went overseas—

watched American technicians show Chinese how to use guns in Taiwan, and that kind of experience for three years gave him the impression "things aren't quite right."

He got back to California in December, 1958, to the Third Air Wing at El Toro. There he applied for a discharge for hardship reasons to support his mother. On Sept. 11, 1959, he was put on inactive reserve status.

Government records indicate he was issued a passport in Los Angeles one day earlier. He told his sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert L. Oswald, on a visit to Fort Worth, that he "wanted to travel a lot," and he talked "about going to Cuba."

Mack Osborn, a real estate dealer in Lubbock, Tex., said yesterday, however, that Oswald, who had shared a double bunk with him for about six months at El Toro, had "spent most of his spare time studying Russian."

Later he said he had tried for a Soviet exit visa as early as July 20, 1960. The United States Embassy got word of his desire to return home in February, 1961.

By May, 1961, he was reporting that he had married a Russian woman, Marina Nicholayeva, a pharmacist in Minsk, and that she would need a visa to accompany him home.

He appealed to Senator Tower, to rise the question of holding by the Soviet Union of a citizen of the United States, against his will and expressed desires.

The Senator referred the letter to the State Department. The department reported that Oswald had a mother living in Vernon, Tex., and a pregnant Soviet wife, and was unable to pay for his return here.

On May 24, 1962, the United States Embassy in Moscow, on instructions from the State Department, renewed Oswald's old passport, and amended it to include a daughter, June Lee, born Feb. 15, 1962. This was based on a decision that he had not expatriated himself.

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Marine Air Group 11, First Marine Air Wing, at Atsugi Air Base in Japan, from July, 1957, to October, 1958.

He had already had problems, seemingly, in Los Angeles, for instance, Donald Goodwin, a former Marine sergeant, said he had been Oswald's section chief at Camp Pendleton.

"He was good with a rifle," Mr. Goodwin said, "but he was such a hothead I was glad when he was finally shipped out for radar training. He was always having beefs with the guys in the barracks. Never could figure out what it was about, really. Just to get into a fight and vent his emotions, I suppose."

"If he had any Communist leanings at that time, I didn't know about them," Mr. Goodwin said. "We weren't exactly close acquaintances. But I did know about his temper and the habit he had of lipping off at the wrong time."

Court-Martialed Twice

In Japan, Oswald received two summary courts-martial. On April 11, 1958, he was convicted of having an unregistered pistol. For this he was demoted from private first class—the highest rating he had achieved—to private.

On June 18, 1958, he was convicted of using profanity to a noncommissioned officer; he could not be demoted any further, and got a note on his record instead.

Peter Connor, an apprentice ironworker in West Haven, Conn., said he had served with Oswald in Japan.

Mr. Connor called him "a real aggravator," whose almost constant smile was a steady annoyance to barracks mates. Oswald had a reputation for competence as a technician.

He had a hair-trigger temper, but he always got the worst of it in fist fights, Mr. Connor went on.

"One thing about him, he never fought his way into the shower," Mr. Connor said. "He was one of the sloppiest guys I ever met in my life."

"He was a pretty insistent kid," Mr. Connor reported. "If he said something, he really meant it, but he was not much for conversation. When his fellow Marines were heading for a night on the town, Oswald would remain behind or leave before they did or after they did. No one ever knew what he did in town."

What Oswald thought, he said later in Moscow, was that serving with the occupation forces in Japan was "imperialistic."

He told Miss Mosby he had continued to study Marxism, and that he had read "Das Kapital" and other Marxist books. He said he had been looking for a religious man opening the Bible for the first time.

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Soviet officials had refused to grant him Soviet citizenship. They told him he could remain as an alien resident, he said.

He wound up in Minsk as a factory worker.

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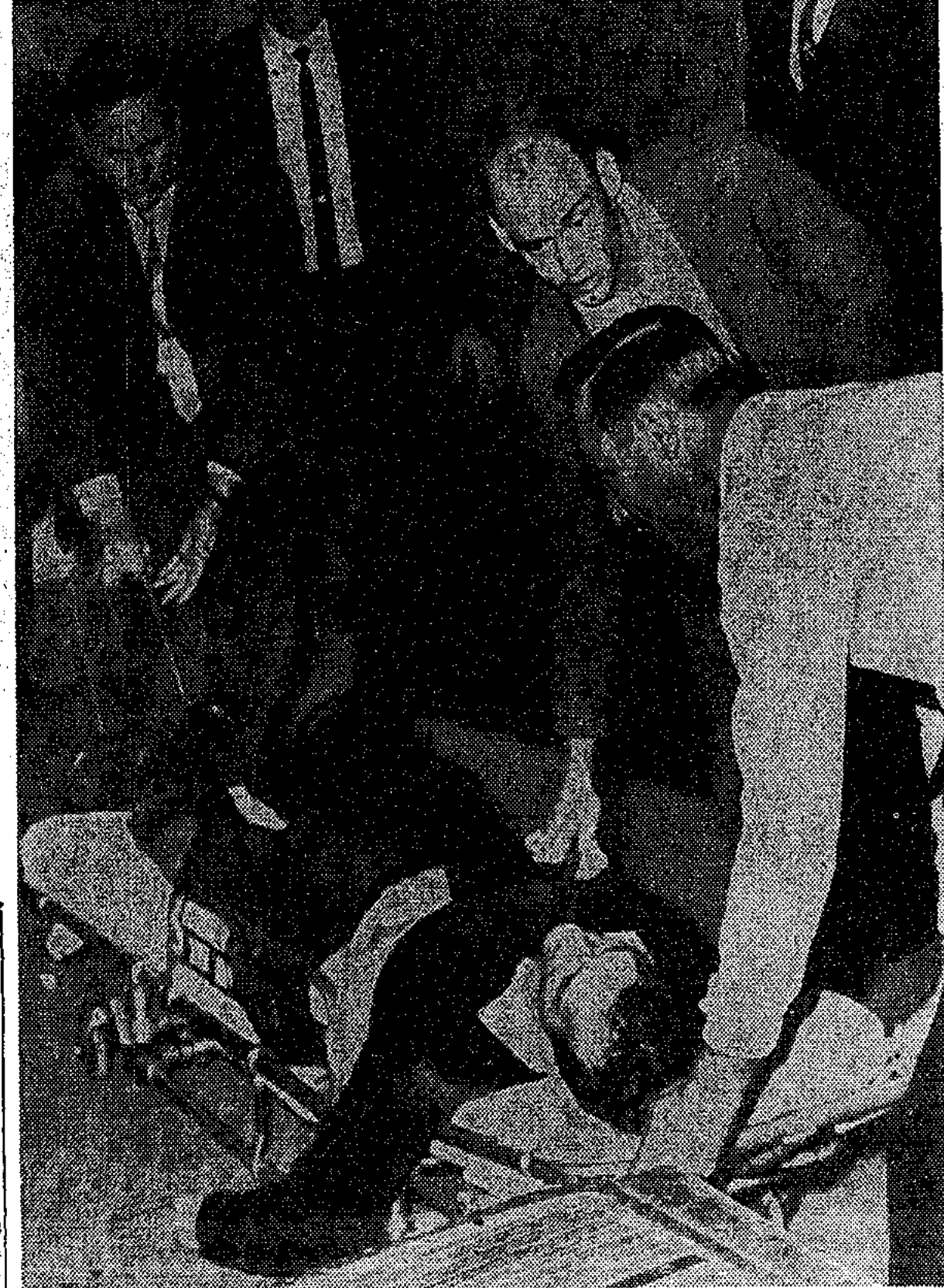
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FATALLY WOUNDED, Lee Harvey Oswald is taken from the jail. He died in hospital.

regime in Cuba. She told him to remove the signs. He said her he was a Russian, she said. "We always had to go and ask him for the rent," Mrs. Garner said. "When he left, he owed me for about 15 days."

She said Oswald had told her he was sending his wife back to Texas to have her baby. He sneaked out, she said, and left the apartment dry.

Incredible to Him

Her husband, Jesse James Garner, a taxi driver, found it hard to believe Oswald could have shot President Kennedy. "He was too quiet, too reserved," Mr. Garner said. "He certainly had the intelligence, and he looked like he could be efficient at doing almost anything."

A. P. Eames 3d, a field clerk with the United States Engineers, was a next-door neighbor at 4903 Magazine Street. He said Oswald was frequently bringing home armfuls of books from the public library.

He called Oswald "a very arrogant person in that he would not greet you or make any attempt to be congenial or neighborly."

Mr. Eames's wife, Doris, said: "His little Russian wife was just the opposite. She couldn't speak English, but she seemed very friendly, except when he was around. He didn't seem to want her to mix with anyone."

"She always smiled. She learned to say hello, although she never spoke English. She would try to answer back when someone greeted her. I don't believe he ever took her anywhere."

"The only place we ever saw them go together was the corner grocery store. Whenever they spoke, he and his wife always spoke in a foreign language."

One man said Oswald used-

to price cosmetics for his wife in a drugstore, and then send her with money to buy them; after the deal had been arranged. There were some complaints that he used to dump trash in everyone's garbage can along Magazine Street.

Last June 24, Oswald applied for a new passport. He said he was a photographer, and he wanted to take a trip abroad for three months to a year and would leave between October and December of this year.

Gave His Itinerary

He listed as his proposed itinerary England, France, Germany, the Soviet Union, Finland, Italy and Poland.

The passport was issued on June 25, which indicated he must have replied negatively to questions as to whether he had for 12 months been a member of a Communist organization or ever sought foreign nationality.

Offered to Fight Castro

In July, he introduced himself to Carlos Bringuier, New Orleans delegate of the anti-Castro Cuban Student Directorate, as a man who wanted to fight Communism and who could help train exiles for an invasion effort. Mr. Bringuier was suspicious, and put Oswald off.

Some days later, Mr. Bringuier found Oswald distributing literature with pro-Castro pickets on Canal Street. The Cuban upbraided him and proposed to punch him; Oswald spread his arms as a ready example of nonviolent protest.

They all wound up in court. Oswald paid a \$10 fine for disturbing the peace.

On Aug. 21, during an interview on radio station WSDU, he said he was secretary of the New Orleans chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, and a Marxist but not Communist. Vincent Theodore Lee, the Fair Play group's national director, said that the organization—sympathetic to the Castro regime—had never had a chapter in Louisiana or Texas, and had never had Oswald as an official or representative.

Oswald might have obtained Fair Play literature, Mr. Lee said.

The Oswald family slipped away from the home they had rented from Mrs. Garner just about that time.

Last Sept. 23, he sent his wife and child from New Orleans to Irving, Tex., to live with Mrs. Michael R. Paine, a Quaker friend they had met in Dallas in February. A month ago, their second child, Audrey Marina Rachel, was born there.

A neighbor of Mrs. Paine's, Mrs. William Randall, was having coffee one day with Mrs. Paine and Mrs. Oswald, and reported there was a job open in the Texas School Book Depository Building in Dallas.

Seemed Glad to Work

Mrs. Paine said yesterday that Oswald had followed up the tip, seemed very happy to get the job, and spoke hopefully of being able to rent an apartment next year with his \$50-a-week earnings. Meanwhile, he stayed in a rooming house in Dallas and visited his family weekends.

He got into long discussions with Mr. Paine, a Bell Helicopter engineer, when Mr. Paine also came to visit. Mr. Paine said "Marxism was a religion" with Oswald.

"He wanted to change the free-enterprise system, while at the same time saying he wanted to return to the United States from Russia because he liked the freedom people had in this country," Mr. Paine said.

"Oswald refused to eschew violence as a method for achieving desired ends."

Last Friday, a rifle bullet from the schoolbook warehouse building killed President Kennedy. Another wounded former Governor Connally, who was riding in a car with the President.

Chicago store last spring. The rifle was sent to an "A. Hidell," at Oswald's post office box here. It arrived by parcel post on March 20.

Samples of Oswald's handwriting were sent yesterday to the F.B.I. laboratory in Washington, where they were found to match the handwriting in the letter ordering the rifle.

F.B.I. identification experts developed a latent fingerprint and a palm print from a brown paper bag found near the window of the school book warehouse. The bag was apparently part of a chicken lunch the assassin ate in the building.

The finger print matched Oswald's left index finger. The palm print was identical with the right palm print of Oswald, said Mr. Shanklin.

Wife Gives Statement

Dallas policemen obtained a statement from Oswald's Russian-born wife, Marina, that she had had a rifle in the garage of her living quarters on the night before the assassination.

The young woman also said the rifle was not there on the next day. Authorities said the wife's testimony would not have been admissible in Texas courts, however.

A search of Mrs. Oswald's living quarters produced photographs showing her husband holding a rifle and a pistol.

A paraffin test, used to determine whether a person has fired a weapon recently, was administered to Oswald shortly after he was apprehended Friday. One hour after the assassination, it showed that particles of gunpowder from a weapon, probably a rifle, remained on Oswald's cheek and hands.

One of Oswald's fellow workers at the school book warehouse said the young man carried a long package to work with him on Friday morning. Police have said that Oswald

bullet pieces found

Already the authorities have collected evidence of all sorts. Gordon Shanklin, F.B.I. agent in charge at Dallas, said today that the rifle that killed the President had been traced to Oswald. Numerous witnesses have declared that Oswald was inside the Texas School Book Depository building when the shooting took place. The President and Governor Connally were shot as their limousine passed in front of the building.

Other witnesses have said that they saw a rifle being withdrawn from a window of the building.

The F.B.I. agent noted these other pieces of evidence, which have been assembled by the Dallas police, the F.B.I. and the Secret Service:

A bullet that Secret Service man removed from a stretcher at Parkland Hospital after the shooting, and two bullet fragments removed from the Presidential automobile matched bullets fired by the rifle agents found inside the warehouse. The bullets were fired by a 6.5mm. Italian-made Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, the agent said.

The police had formally charged Oswald with murder in the deaths of the President and the patrolman with assault with intent to murder Texas Gov. John B. Connally Jr. The Governor was wounded during the shooting.

Oswald maintained his innocence during two days of police questioning. Captain Fritz said after his death that the young man "said absolutely nothing before or after he was shot."

A Dallas homicide detective, J. R. Leavelle, explained that authorities would continue to compile evidence in the Oswald case. When the evidence is collected, he said, a decision will most certainly will be made to close the case.

The decision will be made by Chief Curry and a municipal justice court. Detective Leavelle said he thought the procedure would take about two days.

## Johnson Orders F.B.I. to Look Into All the Aspects of Murder of Oswald

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ing ways to bring out for the public the evidence pointing to Oswald.

The feeling was that it would be tragic and divisive if there were any doubts in the country and the world about the events. Today's shooting of Oswald, one of past events, might create such doubt, it was believed.

At the Justice Department, officials said there was "strong evidence" of Oswald's guilt. Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation actively assisted the Dallas police in their investigation of the crime.

Despite a Dallas police statement this afternoon that the case was closed, the F.B.I. continued its inquiries. An official made clear that on any doubts he had on the importance, in this of all cases, of leaving no remote possibilities untouched.

"The case will not be closed until all the facts are in and every lead followed up," a Justice Department official said.

The F.B.I. is also helping in the inquiry into Oswald's murder. Asked whether any bureau agents were in the corridor when Oswald was shot, an F.B.I. spokesman declined comment.

Disturbing Elements

Even before today's sudden denouement, there were elements in the Oswald case disturbing to persons concerned about civil liberties. Among the elements were the lengthy questioning of him without access to a lawyer and the police statements to the press declaring him, in effect, guilty.

The feeling in Washington generally was that, for the sake of the American conscience and the world's opinion, it was vital that Oswald be tried and tried fairly. Today's event was thus the most disturbing.

The Justice Department showed its concern by sending

the head of its criminal division,