

Mr. PREYER. Had he mentioned it before he went to New Orleans or was this something that he became interested in in New Orleans?

Mrs. PORTER. I think in New Orleans the word "Cuba" came up much more often than in the Dallas period.

Mr. PREYER. He distributed the Fair Play for Cuba Committee literature. Did he talk about distributing that literature with you?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he always brought his pamphlets home. I was kind of pleased that the papers weren't as bad an occupation as playing with the rifle so I couldn't see any harm in that.

Mr. PREYER. He used the name Hidel at this time. Did you write the name Hidel on any of the literature?

Mrs. PORTER. He asked me to put some signatures with a name like that. I make joking remark about does that stand for Fidel, you know, is that a sound association, more or less.

Mr. PREYER. Did he agree that it was a variation on the name Fidel?

Mrs. PORTER. He just had a smile on, you know.

Mr. PREYER. Was that the first that anybody mentioned that Hidel was a variation on Fidel, on that occasion? In other words, did anyone tell you about that before that occasion?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Chairman, I think I have no further questions on this aspect of the questioning at this time.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair observes that the witness has now been under examination for approximately 3½ hours. This would probably be an appropriate place for the committee to take a recess for approximately an hour. It will be the intention of the Chair to recess our hearing until 1:30 this afternoon.

We will once again ask that everyone remain in their seats until our witness has left the room, after which we will then officially recess for 1 hour.

The witness is at this time excused.

[Whereupon, at 12:19 p.m. the committee recessed, to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.]

#### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman STOKES. The committee will come to order. We request that all persons take their seats and that at the time the witness comes into the room that no one leaves their seat.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer, for further questioning.

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Chairman, I just want to straighten up one question that I asked which I think may have caused some confusion.

In connection with Lee Harvey Oswald's activities with both the pro-Castro and anti-Castro groups in New Orleans, I asked the question of the witness: Did you believe Lee Harvey Oswald was a true Communist?

I think you and I may have been thinking of that question in different terms, that you may have been thinking of it in terms of party, was he a true member of the Communist Party, and I was

thinking of it in philosophical terms, that is, was he philosophically attuned to the beliefs of the Communist Party?

To straighten that out, let me ask this: Was Lee Harvey Oswald a member of the Communist Party?

#### TESTIMONY OF MARINA OSWALD PORTER—Resumed

Mrs. PORTER. No, he was not to my knowledge.

Mr. PREYER. In that sense he was not a true Communist?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. PREYER. Did he believe in the principles and the doctrines of the Communist Party?

Mrs. PORTER. In some.

Mr. PREYER. In that sense, in the sense of the beliefs of the party, do you consider that he was a true Communist?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I don't consider him being a true Communist. From him, for example, I learned, at least he told me, that there is a difference between Communist in Soviet Union and the Communist Party right here.

Mr. PREYER. Do you think he was sincere in his political beliefs?

Mrs. PORTER. I really don't know, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Pardon me?

Mrs. PORTER. I do not exactly understand the question, was he sincere about what.

Mr. PREYER. His version of beliefs in Communism were somewhat different from the Russian doctrines?

Mrs. PORTER. That would be correct.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair recognizes counsel, Mr. McDonald.

Mr. McDONALD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. PORTER, directing your attention to September 1963, what happened that caused Lee Oswald to send you back to Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, at this point I was expecting my second child and Mrs. Paine was very generous to invite me to stay at her house until the baby arrived.

Mr. McDONALD. How did you arrive or how did Oswald arrive at a decision to leave New Orleans? You had only moved there a few months prior. What caused him to decide to send you back to Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, by this time he came up with ideas of leaving United States. He was planning to go back to the Soviet Union or try to get visa to Cuba.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he want to go to live in Cuba?

Mrs. PORTER. I assume then he did.

Mr. McDONALD. What specifically did he say?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he said that he go over there first and then he will send for me.

Mr. McDONALD. Go where first?

Mrs. PORTER. To Cuba.

Mr. McDONALD. Let me backtrack a minute. Did you ever have a discussion with Lee Oswald about hijacking an airplane?

Mrs. PORTER. He approached me with that idea and I thought it was a very ridiculous thing to come up with.

Mr. McDONALD. When did he suggest this?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember the exact timing.

Mr. McDONALD. While you were living in New Orleans?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, it was in New Orleans.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he say to you?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he asked me for my cooperation to help him to hijack a plane and the response was that I could not speak English, how can I force somebody, or anyway I just laughed at the whole matter.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he want you to do?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, it was so ridiculous it is even embarrassing to mention it right now. He told me that he would teach me what I am supposed to say, maybe hold the gun and tell the people, you know—I forgot what really I am supposed to do.

Mr. McDONALD. How did the discussion come about regarding hijacking the plane? In other words, how did he approach you and what did he say?

Mrs. PORTER. I am sorry, but I do not remember the conversation, word to word, right now.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he mention any particular airline or any particular flight?

Mrs. PORTER. No; it was just the general idea that he was toying with.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he mention where he wanted to hijack the plane to, to what country?

Mrs. PORTER. No, pardon me—to Cuba.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he mention using his rifle and his handgun?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, he did.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he say?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, with the gun he can persuade the pilot to fly the way he will tell him to.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he want you to do?

Mrs. PORTER. Just to hold another gun or something like that, you know.

Mr. McDONALD. What did you say in response to all of this?

Mrs. PORTER. First of all, I refused and I tried to make him to see how it will look very funny to people, here I was pregnant with a child, you know, it doesn't look very scary.

Mr. McDONALD. This happened after the Walker incident, you were in New Orleans.

Mrs. PORTER. It was in New Orleans, yes, sir.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you tell anyone of his suggestion to hijack a plane?

Mrs. PORTER. Then? No.

Mr. McDONALD. You did not tell any relatives or friends?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you think he was serious? Did you think he was going to carry out such a plan?

Mrs. PORTER. I really cannot say. I don't know.

Mr. McDONALD. When did you first learn of his planned trip to Mexico City? When did you first know about that?

Mrs. PORTER. Shortly before I left for Dallas with Ruth Paine.

Mr. McDONALD. How did you learn of this?

Mrs. PORTER. He told me about his plans to go to Mexico City and visit the Cuban Embassy over there.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he tell you how he was going to travel to Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. By the bus.

Mr. McDONALD. What else did he say about the trip to Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. He told me not to tell anybody about that.

Mr. McDONALD. To whom was he referring when he told you not to tell anyone?

Mrs. PORTER. Mrs. Paine.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he give you a reason for not telling?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, because he said that maybe he wouldn't, you know, he would not be able to come back.

Mr. McDONALD. Come back where? To the United States?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he told me that Mrs. Paine would not approve such an action on his part and maybe if he would not come back, she would not be helpful to me, since we really did need her financial support at that time.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he say he was going to travel there with anyone, in the company of anyone?

Mrs. PORTER. No, he did not.

Mr. McDONALD. Well, do you think he traveled with anyone? Is there anything that would lead you to believe that he traveled to Mexico City with someone else?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he ever mention or give you any indication that perhaps he would be traveling to Mexico City with someone?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Would it have been likely that he would have?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't think so because Lee was quite secretive as a person. He would not share his plans with somebody else that easily. He never mentioned afterwards, after he came back from Mexico, that he was with somebody.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he tell you the planned route that he anticipated traveling to Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. No, he did not.

Mr. McDONALD. Tell us precisely, then, what happened when you left New Orleans?

Mrs. PORTER. Me and my child en route went to Dallas and we left Lee at this apartment in New Orleans.

Mr. McDONALD. When was the last time you saw Lee in New Orleans?

Mrs. PORTER. Do you mean the date?

Mr. McDONALD. Yes, in relation to the day you left to go back to Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember the date, but Mrs. Paine came to New Orleans and she picked me up and all the belongings and things like that.

Mr. McDONALD. She carried all your belongings back?

Mrs. PORTER. In her car, yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Who helped pack or packed the belongings?

Mrs. PORTER. Lee did.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you also?

Mrs. PORTER. Maybe a very few minor baby stuff. We did not have that much.

Mr. McDONALD. How many possessions did you have? Did you have furniture?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. So when you talk about belongings——

Mrs. PORTER. Just the clothing and cooking utensils.

Mr. McDONALD. What did you have, boxes and suitcases?

Mrs. PORTER. Mainly boxes.

Mr. McDONALD. What about the rifle? Did you see that?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, Lee packed all the large things.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you recall seeing the rifle among the goods, among your belongings?

Mrs. PORTER. No, everything was packed and he loaded it in the car by himself.

Mr. McDONALD. Who loaded it into the car?

Mrs. PORTER. Lee did.

Mr. McDONALD. Was the rifle visible? Could you see it?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Where did Lee get the money to travel to Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he told me that he was saving from his paycheck, putting it aside. We have very moderate spending, only bare necessities.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he show you the money he had saved?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. What was your reaction to this whole affair, going to Mexico City, going back to Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. I was very upset about it. I did not know if I would see Lee again. I had to be responsible for one child and I had expecting another one. So, anyway, I was quite lost. On top of everything, I could not share that with no one.

Mr. McDONALD. Could you share it with Ruth Paine?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Why do you say that?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I don't know why, but I was not approved of what Lee did, but at the same time he was my husband and I have to be somehow loyal to him.

Mr. McDONALD. When he left for Mexico City, when you both parted in New Orleans, when did you expect to see him again?

Mrs. PORTER. I honestly did not expect to see him again, but he said that if his trip to the Cuban Embassy would be unsuccessful and they would not permit him to go to Cuba, then he would come back to Ruth Paine's house in Irving, Tex.

Mr. McDONALD. That he would not come back?

Mrs. PORTER. He will come back.

Mr. McDONALD. You are saying—the question was, when did you expect to see him again?

Mrs. PORTER. In the matter of a week.

Mr. McDONALD. You did expect him to come back?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, if he did, it was understood if he can go to Cuba right away, he will go, but if he can't, then he come back to Texas.

Mr. McDONALD. If he had been successful in getting to Cuba right away, what was your plan? What were you to do?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he said that he will be in touch with me and send for me to follow him to Cuba.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he ever discuss if he were unsuccessful in getting into Cuba, that he would try to go back to the Soviet Union from Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, that was discussed, too.

Mr. McDONALD. At that point was he willing to go back to the Soviet Union?

Mrs. PORTER. As far as I remember right now, I think, yes.

Mr. McDONALD. At that time were you willing to go back to the Soviet Union?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, our living conditions were not very nice and Lee might not be capable of handling job for a long time and there would be more security if I go back home.

Mr. McDONALD. When he did return to Dallas, did he tell you about his experience in Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. In very short terms that he was unsuccessful and he talked with some people over there. They denied him a visa and he was very disappointed.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he tell you who he met with and what he did?

Mrs. PORTER. He did not mention the names.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he tell you where he went?

Mrs. PORTER. To the Cuban Consular maybe.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he ever mention to you anything about the university in Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he ever discuss anything of a social nature, what he did in Mexico City when he was not at the Cuban Embassy?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't recall right now.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you remember if he ever discussed attending a party or parties?

Mrs. PORTER. No, he did not.

Mr. McDONALD. In Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. No, he did not say that.

Mr. McDONALD. Well, when he got back, did he specifically tell you he had traveled from New Orleans to Mexico City and back again by bus? Did he specifically tell you he went by bus or are you just assuming that?

Mrs. PORTER. I really just assumed that because that is what he told me before he was leaving, that is how he would travel there, by bus.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you ever see a bus ticket?

Mrs. PORTER. At that time, no.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you know if he traveled through Dallas on the way to Mexico City?

Mrs. PORTER. Excuse me?

Mr. McDONALD. Do you know if he traveled through Dallas? Did he go to Mexico City from New Orleans by way of Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't know that.

Mr. McDONALD. If he had, would you have expected him to stop or notify you if he had been in the area? Would that be likely?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I did not know about his route.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he ever mention to you the name Sylvia Odio?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I am finished with this section of questioning.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer, for such time as he may consume.

Mr. PREYER. Mrs. Porter, when Lee Harvey Oswald returned from Mexico to Dallas, he had been through what must have been an important experience in his life where he was frustrated in his attempt to return to Russia or to go to Cuba.

Did you notice any change in his personality at that time, once he returned from Mexico?

Mrs. PORTER. Somehow I felt that maybe he will be more settled by now. It looked like he was quite happy to see his family when he came back and we were talking about, you know, arrival of the new baby. So I thought maybe right now he will be more responsible.

Mr. PREYER. Did his treatment of you improve? Did he behave toward you more responsibly?

Mrs. PORTER. He was not as brutal and violent after that compared to what was before.

Mr. PREYER. So that there was a change in his personality and his treatment of you when he returned and that change was on the whole to the good?

Mrs. PORTER. In some areas, yes, he improved better. At least the relationship was a little bit better.

Mr. PREYER. He eventually came to get a job at the Texas School Book Depository. Do you know how he got that job?

Mrs. PORTER. I think some friends of Mrs. Paine—I would be just speculating right now recalling back, how long it was. I mean, it was a long time ago. I think somebody helped him to get this job.

Mr. PREYER. Did he ever say anything about his job? Did he like it or did he regard it as too beneath him or what was his attitude?

Mrs. PORTER. I think he kind of likes his job, yes.

Mr. PREYER. Getting back to the other question, do you know or can you name anyone other than Mrs. Paine who may have helped him get that job?

Mrs. PORTER. I think one of her neighbors was working there, too. Maybe that is how, with his help or recommendation, that he got the job.

Mr. PREYER. That would have been Mr. Frazier?

Mrs. PORTER. That is the gentleman I am thinking of.

Mr. PREYER. Apart from Mr. Frazier, Mrs. Paine, do you know of anyone else who had something to do with him getting that job?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't know.

Mr. PREYER. When you were living with Mrs. Paine in Irving and Lee Harvey Oswald was living in Dallas at the Beckley Street roominghouse, did you ever visit him there in Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. How did you come to find out that he had registered in an assumed name, O.H. Lee, at the rooming house at Beckley Street?

Mrs. PORTER. He left me his telephone number where he can be reached. One day I called and asked to speak with him and they say that a person by that name doesn't live there.

So when he came the following weekend to Ruth Paine's house, I asked him what it is all about. He said that he did not give his real name to the landlady because he don't want them to find out that, maybe by reading newspapers, that he was in Soviet Union and maybe it will create some difficulties.

Mr. PREYER. What was your reaction on learning that he was renting the room under an assumed name?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, by that time I was quite upset about him living such a secretive life, always making some stories or lies or covering up something, so it was not a very comfortable position to be in, at least for me it was not.

Mr. PREYER. We have asked you earlier about whether he was devious and secretive, cunning. Did he always like to be the boss or did he take orders gracefully?

Mrs. PORTER. Not very easily.

Mr. PREYER. Generally speaking, how did he get along with people?

Mrs. PORTER. He did not have very many friends. The friends in America, the one that he met, he was disappointed in them quite quickly.

Mr. PREYER. Well, I think all of these questions may perhaps be summarized this way, the questions of whether he was secretive or whether he could work with people. Can you visualize him working with an accomplice?

Mrs. PORTER. Personally, I can't.

Mr. PREYER. Could you explain briefly why you reached that conclusion?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I am not a psychiatrist, I cannot maybe make a good judge of character, but living with a person for a few years you at least have some kind of intuition about what he might do or might not. I don't mean in every respect, but he was not a very trustworthy [sic] and open person.

So, personally, I seriously doubt that he will confide in someone.

Mr. PREYER. During October and November of 1963, and the two months just preceding the assassination, did any change occur in Lee in his conduct?

Mrs. PORTER. Two months before it? Wasn't that in Dallas?

Mr. PREYER. Yes. Was there any change different from what you have already described for us?

Mrs. PORTER. I did not see very much of Lee except only on the weekends. He seemed to me on the weekends his mood was all right.

Mr. PREYER. Could you contrast——

Mrs. PORTER. It was a more relaxed mood instead of very tense like before.

Mr. PREYER. He was in a relaxed mood rather than a tense mood?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. PREYER. How did that compare with his mood just before the time of the Walker shooting?

Mrs. PORTER. Excuse me? I didn't hear.



Mr. PREYER. You have indicated that he was in a more relaxed mood in October and November in Dallas. How did that compare with the mood he was in at the time immediately before the Walker shooting occurred?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, like before Walker he was more irritable and annoyed by me, but maybe just because we did not see each other for quite a long time during the week.

Mr. PREYER. Was he—pardon me, I did not mean to cut you off.

Mrs. PORTER. That is all right.

Mr. PREYER. Was there anything during October of 1963 in Dallas that occurred that was out of the ordinary that would have been a signal to you of any kind of what was to come?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. How about in November? Was there anything out of the ordinary that occurred at that time that could have been a signal?

Mrs. PORTER. Not at all. I was thinking that finally we maybe were on our way to a better life. You know, we were together and maybe he changed for the better, you know, forever.

Mr. PREYER. Did he have any friends or acquaintances during this period in October and November?

Mrs. PORTER. Not that I know of. Besides seeing Michael Paine, Ruth's husband, occasionally, I don't know anybody he would talk with or was associated with.

Mr. PREYER. Was he friendly with Frazier, Ruth Paine's neighbor?

Mrs. PORTER. I really don't know, sir, because I see him a very few times and I did not know if they talk about anything. Anyway, he did not make any remarks about another gentleman.

Mr. PREYER. I want to ask you about some meetings you had with one person during this period. Do you know an FBI agent named James Hosty?

Mrs. PORTER. I remember the name, but I do not remember his face by now.

Mr. PREYER. How do you know him?

Mrs. PORTER. He came at Ruth Paine's house one day and he asked some questions through her about if I have been ever approached by any agents from another country and I told him no. He asked me to let him know if such an incident occurred.

Mr. PREYER. Lee was not present at the time?

Mrs. PORTER. No, he was at work.

Mr. PREYER. What was Lee's reaction to the visit?

Mrs. PORTER. When he found out about that, he was very angry again. He said that he will talk to Mr. Hosty and tell him to stop harassing me.

Mr. PREYER. Did he say anything about whether you should speak to him again if Mr. Hosty should come again?

Mrs. PORTER. Excuse me?

Mr. PREYER. Well, let me put it this way: How many times did Mr. Hosty visit you?

Mrs. PORTER. I recall only one incident, but it could be two, maybe, I don't know. That could be among the records.

Mr. PREYER. What were the visits of the FBI like from your point of view? Were you intimidated by them or frightened by them or what was your attitude about them?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, at the beginning I thought that was a routine procedure because after all, we just came from a Communist country. I really didn't see anything unusual about the Government keeping an eye on you or a Government official checking on you occasionally. It did not disturb me that much.

Mr. PREYER. But Lee's reaction to it was—well, could you just describe what his reaction was to those visits?

Mrs. PORTER. Sometimes I thought and it did cross my mind because of Lee's lack of holding a job, maybe he was angry because somebody were investigating him on the job.

Mr. PREYER. What was his opinion generally of the FBI?

Mrs. PORTER. He was not fond of them.

Mr. PREYER. Pardon me?

Mrs. PORTER. He was not very fond of them.

Mr. PREYER. Did he give them credit for causing him to lose his job in New Orleans because of the Fair Play for Cuba leaflets?

Mrs. PORTER. I think so.

Mr. PREYER. Do you know if Lee ever mentioned President Kennedy to Mr. Hosty, Agent Hosty?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't know.

Mr. PREYER. When was the last time that you saw Hosty before November 22, 1963?

Mrs. PORTER. Whatever this visit at Mrs. Paine's house, that is only once or twice maybe I see him. I think maybe he come back. I do not recall exactly that he ever came back again.

Mr. PREYER. Do you know when the last time Lee saw Hosty before November 22, 1963?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I don't remember the day.

Mr. PREYER. Did you ever see Hosty after November 22, after the assassination?

Mrs. PORTER. I do not remember Mr. Hosty's face so I cannot say if I have seen him or not. I do not recall seeing him afterwards.

Mr. PREYER. Could you tell us a little more about the visit of the FBI to you on their first and second visits? Who was present when they first visited you? Was Mrs. Paine with you, did I understand you to say?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, Mrs. Paine was with me.

Mr. PREYER. Was anyone else with you?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Where was this?

Mrs. PORTER. When or where? It was at her house.

Mr. PREYER. Where was it? Did you speak in the house or out in the yard?

Mrs. PORTER. It was in the house.

Mr. PREYER. Could you tell us in a little more detail what was said at that meeting?

Mrs. PORTER. Mrs. Paine was acting as interpreter, so she told me that, as I told you before, that the man was, just wanted me to tell him if anybody did ever, or if any agent of another country will ever ask me to work for them in the future or something in that manner.

Mr. PREYER. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions in that area at this time.

Chairman STOKES. The Chair understands there are two votes on the floor and the committee will probably have to remain on the floor for both of those votes. The Chair at this time will recess for 15 minutes and we will ask that all persons in the room remain seated until the witness has left the room, please.

[A brief recess was taken.]

Mr. DODD. The committee will come to order.

Chairman STOKES. Mr. McDonald.

Mr. McDONALD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Porter, we are going to show you exhibits F-183 and F-184, and F-133A.

Would the clerk please hand Mrs. Porter the exhibit, and for demonstration purposes, we have on the easel JFK F-383.

My questions are going to be directed toward the back of the photograph where the handwriting is.

Mrs. PORTER. OK.

Mr. McDONALD. Mrs. Porter, if you would again direct your attention to the lower left-hand corner, where the writing says "To my friend George. From Lee Oswald."

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. And I specifically call your attention to the numbering in the lower extreme left-hand corner where it has "5/IV/63."

Can you tell us, was that Lee's custom, in dating letters or whatever? Was it his custom to use that style, the style you see here, with the "5," with the Roman numeral?

Mrs. PORTER. I really cannot tell that much about—

Mr. McDONALD. Would you take a look at it?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I really don't know, sir.

Mr. McDONALD. I am sorry?

Mrs. PORTER. I do not know.

Mr. McDONALD. Have you ever seen that style of dating, where the month is designated by a Roman numeral?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't see anything so unusual about it, because isn't it everybody's preference how they want to write? You mean all the Romans are all—

Mr. McDONALD. I am sorry; will you repeat that?

Mrs. PORTER. Are you trying to say that all the numbers should be in Roman numerals?

Mr. McDONALD. No; I am not saying which way they should be. I am asking you if, as you look at those numbers, what do you see in front of you, what numbers?

Mrs. PORTER. Five—fourth month—1963.

Mr. McDONALD. IV/63.

The question is that style of designating the month with Roman numerals, is that the style of writing that you know to be characteristic of Lee Oswald?

Mrs. PORTER. I really don't know, sir.

Mr. McDONALD. You don't know?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you ever use that style of designating a date?

Mrs. PORTER. I think in Russia I could. It is customary in Russia to do that.

Mr. McDONALD. It is customary in Russia?

Mrs. PORTER. Roman numerals for the month.

Mr. McDONALD. To designate the month?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you know if Lee adopted that style?

Mrs. PORTER. I do not know really.

Mr. McDONALD. Mrs. Porter, let me direct your attention to November 21, 1963. It was a Thursday.

Mrs. PORTER. What is the date?

Mr. McDONALD. Twenty-first of November.

Where were you that day?

Mrs. PORTER. I was at Mrs. Paine's house.

Mr. McDONALD. Just for the record, where is Mrs. Paine's house?

Mrs. PORTER. In Irving, Tex.

Mr. McDONALD. Irving, Tex.

What did you do that day in Irving?

Mrs. PORTER. What day of the week was it?

Mr. McDONALD. It was a Thursday.

Mrs. PORTER. Thursday?

Just, I do not really remember, just a routine.

Mr. McDONALD. Was Lee there that morning? Was he staying with you?

Mrs. PORTER. I really don't—

Yes; probably he did. He did come Thursday.

Mr. McDONALD. When did he come on Thursday?

Mrs. PORTER. He usually come on Friday, but he came on Thursday.

Mr. McDONALD. At what part of the day did he come?

Mrs. PORTER. After work.

Mr. McDONALD. After work.

So about what time would that be?

Mrs. PORTER. Six o'clock, between 5 and 6.

Mr. McDONALD. And what do you remember exactly, what happened when he arrived?

First of all, what were you doing? What were you doing?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Mr. McDONALD. How do you remember Lee arriving Thursday afternoon, November 21?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember right now, after testifying so many times for so many people, you know.

Mr. McDONALD. Do your best.

How do you remember today?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I am sorry, I do not recall what exactly I was doing. I just know that he arrived a Thursday and it was after work.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you remember? Describe the situation when you first saw him on that afternoon. In other words, did he come through the door? Did he come through the back door, the front door? Did you see him when you were in the kitchen?

Mrs. PORTER. Sir, I do not remember.

Mr. McDONALD. You don't remember any details?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he say? Can you remember what he said to you when he came in?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I don't remember.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he say hello?

Mrs. PORTER. Isn't it usually people say hello when they see each other? Probably.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you remember what you said to him?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I don't.

Mr. McDONALD. Were you surprised that he came on a Thursday?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes; it wasn't the usual day that he come.

Mr. McDONALD. So did you make any comment to that effect?

Mrs. PORTER. I probably have.

Mr. McDONALD. Can you remember what you said?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I don't.

Mr. McDONALD. When had you last spoken to him prior to him coming to Irving on Thursday? When had you last talked to him?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember, sir.

Mr. McDONALD. When was the last time you had seen him?

Mrs. PORTER. Prior to that?

Mr. McDONALD. Prior, yes.

Mrs. PORTER. He usually came every weekend, once a week.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you remember seeing him the weekend before?

Mrs. PORTER. No; one of the weekends he did not come, on Friday, I do think so, because he was angry with me or something like that.

Mr. McDONALD. How did he act when you first saw him on Thursday evening?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I think maybe I try my best to remember. I think prior to that maybe we had disagreement or argument about something, like, him hiding the name.

Mr. McDONALD. I am sorry I didn't hear that.

Mrs. PORTER. I think it was in connection with him hiding his real name from the landlady and maybe we had argument over that. I thought maybe he came just to make up, you know.

Mr. McDONALD. What did you discuss when he came on Thursday evening, can you recall? Did you speak about that, using the fictitious name?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, we were looking forward and talking about him renting apartment for us, and I would like to be with him—it was very big imposition to live with Mrs. Paine, and I thought we just should live as a family, and like that, we discussed for us all move together.

Mr. McDONALD. You remember discussing these things that night, Thursday night?

Mrs. PORTER. Not word for word.

Mr. McDONALD. Not word for word?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. But this is what you remember, generally speaking?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. How did he appear when he came home that night?

Mrs. PORTER. Quite normal. It was nothing unusual in his appearance.

Mr. McDONALD. It was not unusual that he would come in on a Thursday?

Mrs. PORTER. No; it wasn't anything unusual his appearance. You asked me how did he look?

Mr. McDONALD. Did he seem relaxed?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he seem in any way different than he usually would appear?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he seem calm, calmer than normal?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Can you relate or remember, did he act in any way like he did prior to the Walker incident?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Please explain why you say no?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he was more withdrawn person before, more hostile. He was more in peaceful mood right now and was willing to listen to me more so than then.

Mr. McDONALD. What do you mean "he was willing to listen"?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, like, for example, if maybe before I would say I would like for us to be together, and he would tell me to, oh, just stop dreaming, or just cut me off, or not listen at all, but now at least he was listening at what I had to say.

Mr. McDONALD. In other words, that evening you are saying he would listen to you more.

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you all eat dinner together, you and Lee and the Paines?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes. No, I recall that—

Was President Kennedy supposed to come Friday?

Mr. McDONALD. That is correct.

Mrs. PORTER. OK, so that was quite interesting news to me, and I was asking Lee about the President being in Dallas, and he did not make any comment about it at all. It seemed like he didn't—well, like before I said that he was more listening to me, but now when I recall back, it was quite unusual that he did not want to talk about President Kennedy being in Dallas that particular evening. That was quite peculiar.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he say? What did you say to him about President Kennedy's trip to Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. It was quite exciting, you know, for me to talk about, but it seemed like he is changing the subject or just refused to talk about, but it wasn't in any hostile way or violent form. Just looked like he just ignored a little bit you know to talk about.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he say; do you remember?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I don't.

Mr. McDONALD. How did he dismiss talking about Kennedy? Did he say—

Mrs. PORTER. Maybe changed subject about talking about a newborn baby or something like that.

Mr. McDONALD. How many times did you bring up the subject of President Kennedy coming to Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember how many times now.

Mr. McDONALD. Did it come up more than once?

Mrs. PORTER. Probably.

Mr. McDONALD. And what was his reaction each time?

Mrs. PORTER. He just didn't want to talk about it somehow.

Mr. McDONALD. Was anyone else talking about it? Was Ruth Paine talking about it?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, Mrs. Paine.

Mr. McDONALD. Mrs. Paine was discussing it?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, that is how I learned, from Mrs. Paine, that Mr. Kennedy coming, President Kennedy coming to town.

Mr. McDONALD. And what was your reaction then? Did his not wanting to talk about the upcoming visit of President Kennedy—what was your reaction to his attitude?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I did not—if he didn't want to talk about, I mean I did not pursue further.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you at all think that evening, did you think back at all that evening before, when Lee was home, and he didn't want to talk about the upcoming Presidential visit? Did it ever cross your mind about the Walker incident?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Or the Nixon incident?

Mrs. PORTER. No, no.

Mr. McDONALD. Did Lee say anything at all about President Kennedy that night?

Mrs. PORTER. No. I asked him, for example, if he know which route President Kennedy will take or something, and he said he doesn't know anything about it.

Mr. McDONALD. That is what he said, "I don't know anything about it"?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you ask whether he was going to watch President Kennedy when he came through downtown Dallas?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember that.

Mr. McDONALD. That evening, did you know the route the President was going to take?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Did Mrs. Paine know?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't know. She didn't tell me.

Mr. McDONALD. And your testimony is that Lee did not know or did not tell you?

Mrs. PORTER. He did not tell me that he know.

Mr. McDONALD. And when was all this discussion about President Kennedy taking place? Was this taking place at the dinner table?

Mrs. PORTER. No. I think maybe it was in the living room before the television set.

Mr. McDONALD. While the television was on?

Mrs. PORTER. Probably.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you recall watching any news programs that evening that were describing the—

Mrs. PORTER. Well, Mrs. Paine did speak Russian, and I did not understand English well enough to know what it was all about.

Mr. McDONALD. I am sorry. Did you say that Mrs. Paine did not speak Russian?

Mrs. PORTER. She did speak Russian.

Mr. McDONALD. She did speak Russian; OK.

When you were in the living room discussing President Kennedy's visit, was that before or after dinner?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember, sir.

Mr. McDONALD. What happened later on that evening? Were there any further discussions about the upcoming Presidential visit?

Mrs. PORTER. He went to bed before me, and I had some other chores to do, around the house, so when I went to bedroom he was asleep.

Mr. McDONALD. Before he went to bed, did he pay any attention to his daughter?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. His child?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, he did. Usually on the weekends he did play with children.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he play with her that evening?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Do you recall for how long?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he act differently toward you that evening, comparing it with other occasions when you had seen him in the recent past?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, since I was angry at him, you know, previous weekend, I didn't want him to just—I mean I don't want to make up that easily. I want to, you know, to teach him a lesson, not to do this any more.

Mr. McDONALD. Now when you moved in with Ruth Paine, where were your belongings?

Mrs. PORTER. In Mrs. Paine's house, in the garage mostly.

Mr. McDONALD. And how much space did they occupy in the garage?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember, but you have to go in between boxes, you know, in the garage.

Mr. McDONALD. Could you get an automobile in the garage at the same time?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Mr. McDONALD. And do you recall going in that garage from time to time when you lived with the Paines?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. And do you recall seeing where his rifle was located? In other words, did you know where it was?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, I did.

Mr. McDONALD. Where was it?

Mrs. PORTER. In the garage.

Mr. McDONALD. Where in the garage?

Mrs. PORTER. I think it was wrapped in a blanket.

Mr. McDONALD. And where was this blanket? In other words, was it in plain view? Was it in a corner?

Mrs. PORTER. No, it was between boxes I think. I mean that is how I remember it now.



Mr. McDONALD. Did you ever see it unwrapped? Did you ever see the gun when you were at Ruth Paine's? Did you ever see the rifle taken outside of the blanket?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Was it ever exposed?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. On the night of the 21st, did you see Lee go into the garage?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Did you see him go into the backyard at all?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Mr. McDONALD. When he was playing or paying attention to the child, what were you doing at that time?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember. I am sorry about that.

Mr. McDONALD. Would it be your usual custom to be playing with the child with him?

Mrs. PORTER. Excuse me?

Mr. McDONALD. Would you usually play together with the child?

Mrs. PORTER. No. Usually I be busy doing something. But, I have two children, you know, so when you take care of one—

Mr. McDONALD. Do you remember at all Lee going out into the backyard or the side yard toward the garage?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember that.

Mr. McDONALD. You just testified when you went to bed or got to bed he was asleep.

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. In the book "Marina and Lee," you are quoted as saying in that that at one point in the morning, 3 a.m. I think it is, that there was an incident where he kicked you vehemently, I think the word is in the book.

Mrs. PORTER. Pardon me?

Mr. McDONALD. He kicked you very forcefully, pushed your leg, or something to that effect.

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Would you comment on that?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I meant, I do not remember that incident right now.

Mr. McDONALD. But it is your testimony that when you got to bed that night he was asleep, or he seemed asleep?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Are you sure he was asleep?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I assumed that he was. He wasn't awake.

Mr. McDONALD. What happened the next morning?

Mrs. PORTER. I am sorry, it is very hard for me to remember right now details, so whatever I told Priscilla, that was the truth. My memory was much fresher then, and you can take the statements in the book as a true fact.

Mr. McDONALD. Tell us what happened the morning, Friday morning, November 22.

What happened at dawn or when you woke up?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, to the best of my recollection right now, I think I wanted to get up and maybe fix cup of coffee for Lee or something. He told me not to get up. He'll do it himself.

Mr. McDONALD. How did he look? How did he appear in the morning?

Mrs. PORTER. As usual.

Mr. McDONALD. He got dressed for work, in other words?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he appear at all to be nervous?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Agitated or excited?

Mrs. PORTER. No. It is nothing in his behavior that I would be suspicious of something.

Mr. McDONALD. Are you saying that he acted in a normal fashion?

Mrs. PORTER. As far as I remember right now, yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Did he at all resemble the way he appeared before the Walker incident?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. In other words, your testimony today is that his demeanor at the time of November 22 was different. He was calm. He was acting normally.

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. What did he say to you as he went to work?

Mrs. PORTER. I am sorry, I do not remember. Goodbye, probably.

Mr. McDONALD. And where were you when he went out to work that morning?

Mrs. PORTER. In the bedroom.

Mr. McDONALD. You were still in bed?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. McDONALD. Was it dark in the room?

Mrs. PORTER. I think so. It was very early.

Mr. McDONALD. And you don't recall what he said when he walked out?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. At that time did you detect anything out of the ordinary?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. McDONALD. Thank you.

I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. Thank you, Counsel.

The procedure at this point will be as follows: The Chair will recognize the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer, for such time as he may consume, after which the committee will operate under the 5-minute rule.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Preyer.

Mr. PREYER. Mrs. Porter, when did you first learn that President Kennedy had been assassinated?

Mrs. PORTER. I was watching television, and all of a sudden everything went blurry, and I did not know what happened, and Mrs. Paine explained to me, she told me that somebody shot President Kennedy.

Mr. PREYER. Did you continue to watch television with Mrs. Paine to learn more news about it?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. PREYER. What was your reaction to the news?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, it was horrible, shocking news.

Mr. PREYER. Did the TV, as you listened to it, say that the shots had come, were believed to have come from the Texas Book Depository?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I did not understand English, but I think Mrs. Paine told me that shots came from school book depository.

Mr. PREYER. Did you have any intuitive feelings about the shooting at that moment?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, for instance, my heart kind of stopped or ached. I don't know how to describe the feeling. I felt very uneasy and uncomfortable, and I was afraid that maybe my face will betray me, so I went outside. I didn't want Ruth Paine to see. The blood was rushing to my cheeks.

Mr. PREYER. You were feeling uneasy and uncomfortable because you thought Lee might be involved?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, for an instant it did cross my mind. I thought to myself I hope it wasn't Lee.

Mr. PREYER. When did you first learn of Lee's involvement?

Mrs. PORTER. When policemen came at Ruth Paine's house and told me through her that Lee was arrested.

Mr. PREYER. Did you go to the police station with the policemen?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, I think so. All this day is not very clear in my memory, because after that everything went very fuzzy.

Mr. PREYER. But you did see Lee at the police station not long after the assassination, I believe.

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Was that the same day or the next day? I do not recall.

Mr. PREYER. When you saw him there, did you speak to him through a glass window?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. PREYER. What did you talk about?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, it just seemed to me that he was avoiding to discuss with me the assassination at all. He just talk about the children mainly.

Mr. PREYER. Did he give you any signals indicating you should avoid talking about the assassination?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes; he did, because it was a glass between us, and there was a telephone receiver that you are supposed to talk through, and he motioned with his eyes on the telephone, and I understood that maybe he meant that it was, you know, that it was taped or something, so be careful what you say. So he just told me not to worry about anything. Everything will be all right.

Mr. PREYER. So that he signaled with his eyes at the telephone—

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. PREYER [continuing]. Indicating to you be careful what you say. Was his response calm or was it excited?

Mrs. PORTER. What kind of response?

Mr. PREYER. Well, when you met him at the police station, was his attitude calm or was he excited or—

Mrs. PORTER. He looked scared to me.

Mr. PREYER. He looked scared.

Was he protesting his innocence, for example?

Mrs. PORTER. He never told me that. No; he did not tell me in exact words that "I am innocent."

Mr. PREYER. If he had been innocent, do you think he would have protested his innocence to you or that he would have complained about his rights being violated? Would that have been typical of him?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, that I really cannot say, sir. I don't know.

Mr. PREYER. While he was in jail, did he ever call you on the telephone?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Mr. PREYER. Did he ever at any time give you any hint as to why he did it?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Or anything as to whether he had any accomplices, anyone assisting him?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. How were you treated by the FBI after the assassination?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, they were quite strict with me.

Mr. PREYER. How about the Secret Service?

Mrs. PORTER. They were the nice guys, I guess.

Mr. PREYER. So is it fair to say your attitude was more favorable toward the Secret Service than toward the FBI after the assassination?

Mrs. PORTER. That is correct.

Mr. PREYER. Were you ever contacted by any foreign government after the assassination?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Were you ever contacted by anyone who, in effect, supported Lee Harvey Oswald's act in assassinating the President?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Never, at any time?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Did you know Officer Tippit?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Or did you know Jack Ruby?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. PREYER. Do you know whether Lee knew Officer Tippit?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't know about that.

Mr. PREYER. How about Jack Ruby?

Mrs. PORTER. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. PREYER. Mrs. Porter, with the benefit of 15 years hindsight, living with the assassination all of these years, and knowing Harvey Oswald probably better than anyone else ever knew him, can you tell this committee and the American public if it is your opinion that Lee Harvey Oswald killed the President?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I don't know if I am qualified to make statement like that, because I knew one side of Lee, but I do not have qualification to make a judgment of his whole character and put all the pieces together.

Mr. PREYER. So you do not wish to give an opinion on that subject.

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I don't think I am in position or qualified to give opinion like that.

Mr. PREYER. Let me ask one final question in this field.

If he did it, do you have an opinion as to why he would have done it?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I don't.

Mr. PREYER. Mr. Chairman, I at this time wanted to review some of the areas which we have already gone over, and as you indicated, I think some of the other members, all of the other members, will wish to participate in that too, areas which we have already covered today, but on which I would like to ask Mrs. Porter about some earlier statements which she has made which might appear to be inconsistent with some statements which she has made today.

I understand we will proceed until 4 o'clock today?

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. PREYER. All right, then if the Chair permits, I will begin with a few of those instances at this time.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. PREYER. First, Mrs. Porter, I understand that at the time you testified before the Warren Commission, you could not speak or understand English very well.

Mrs. PORTER. That is correct.

Mr. PREYER. You did not use it in the course of your everyday activities, the English language.

Mrs. PORTER. I testified before Warren Commission more than once, and they always provide interpreter for me.

Mr. PREYER. So that you did need a translator when you testified before the Warren Commission.

Mrs. PORTER. That is correct.

Mr. PREYER. When did you learn to speak English so that you could use it in the course of your everyday activities?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, it did come gradually. I cannot say it took 5 months or 6 months or 1 year. It was a gradual learning process.

Mr. PREYER. Could you make some general estimate of, say, within the last 3 years?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, maybe like a year and a half after assassination I could communicate maybe 3 or 4 months after November 22.

Mr. PREYER. First, I would like to ask you a few questions about the Komsomol, Communist Youth Movement, which you testified to here today.

You testified this morning, as I understand, that you were expelled from it primarily because you married a foreigner. That seemed to be the main reason. Back in December 3, 1963, shortly after the assassination, you talked with the FBI about this. You told them you were expelled from it for failing to pick up your membership card. You did not mention your marriage to Lee, as I recall.

Why did you not mention your marriage at that time?

Mrs. PORTER. I do not understand your question. Why I did not what?

Mr. PREYER. Today—

Mrs. PORTER. Oh, I see I give you a different reason today for it. Well, I assume that the reason for me to be expelled from organization was for that reason because I was under pressure before. But their excuse for expelling me, they did not tell me directly well, because you married to a foreigner, that is why we are expelling

you. They said because I did not, I was not a good member, I did not pay my dues on time or whatever, so it was on the paper a legitimate excuse for them.

Mr. PREYER. You testified today, I believe, that you did pay your dues regularly to the Komsomol and you told the Warren Commission you paid your dues regularly. Earlier you mentioned in a deposition that you were discharged from the Komsomol because you did not pay your dues. Did you pay your dues?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, sometimes I usually did, you know, at the beginning, but then at the end of it, if I missed a month, you know, or something like that. What I am trying to say, that my involvement with the organization was only the things I did, I paid the tuitions or whatever few cents a month or something like that.

Well, on this meeting when they discharged me they discussed my character and it looked like I wasn't good enough. And I was such an irresponsible member of the organization.

Excuse me. May I add also that Lee frightened me as well. He thought that if the authorities ever find out that I am a member of such an organization, I could be prosecuted in this country, too. So maybe at the beginning when the FBI were questioning me, I was still afraid that it might cause some inconveniences or departure out of this country.

Mr. PREYER. Let me turn to one other area which is Lee's trip to Mexico. You have told us today that you knew of Lee's intended trip to Mexico City when you were living in New Orleans, and I believe you said that also to the Warren Commission.

Why did you not give the FBI this information when they interviewed you back in November 29, 1963, approximately a week after the assassination?

Mrs. PORTER. At that time I did not really have the country to go to. My husband committed a horrible crime. I did not know if I would be prosecuted for that just as well, being his wife, because I did not know the rules and regulations and law of this country at all.

I thought that if I tell them that I knew about Mexico, I would be responsible just as well for what he did.

Mr. PREYER. As late as January 22, 1964, you were still denying that you knew Lee was going to Mexico when you lived in New Orleans, but about 10 days after that you testified before the Warren Commission that you did know of the trip. If you were trying to protect Lee in December by not telling of the Mexican trip—

Mrs. PORTER. I tried to protect myself as well, sir.

Mr. PREYER. Protecting yourself?

Mrs. PORTER. To tell you the truth, I did not like the FBI. I did not like the treatment. I am sorry to say that, I was frightened and I sometimes was maybe deliberately difficult in giving information to the FBI.

Mr. PREYER. Were you pressured by anyone to change your testimony between those dates? That is just a 10-day period there. Did the FBI or the Secret Service or anyone suggest to you to change your testimony there?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I don't remember.

Mr. PREYER. Would you not have remembered if one of them—

Mrs. PORTER. I think it was—well, I did not want to talk about the FBI, but I do believe that one of the FBI agents, he brought something that looks like it came from Mexico and, little by little in the questioning, I had to confess that I did know. Maybe that is what it was. I don't remember right now.

Mr. PREYER. As I understand your testimony, you are saying now that you did know of the trip to Mexico and you gave your earlier statements to the FBI to protect Lee and to protect yourself?

Mrs. PORTER. That is correct.

Mr. PREYER. We talked earlier today about the use of the alias Alik Hidel by Lee in New Orleans. I think you also told the Warren Commission that Lee used Hidel and that that was just an altered form of the name Fidel, Fidel Castro.

Why did you tell the Secret Service when they interviewed you 10 days after the assassination that to your knowledge Lee had never used the name Alik Hidel?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember this incident at all.

Mr. PREYER. I am sorry, I didn't understand you.

Mrs. PORTER. Ten days after assassination, you said?

Mr. PREYER. Yes; approximately 10 days afterwards you apparently indicated to the Secret Service that Alik or that Lee had never used the name Alik Hidel.

Mrs. PORTER. Well, my emotional conditions were not very normal at the time, you know, after the assassination, so I could maybe remember something one day and forget the next one or be frightened or whatever the circumstances were. But when I gave testimony to the Warren Commission, it was all the truth.

Mr. PREYER. Shifting to the question of the rifle and the pistol, you have told us that you didn't like rifles and guns. When was the first time you saw the pistol that Lee had?

Mrs. PORTER. I really do not remember what month or the day it was and when I learned about the existence of it.

Mr. PREYER. Was it on the occasion of the photograph or was it on the occasion of the Nixon incident that you mentioned? Which was the first time that you knew he had a pistol?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I cannot right now compare when it was, when the picture was taken, or when the Nixon incident was, before or after.

Mr. PREYER. I think the picture was taken in March and the Nixon photograph was in April. The picture must have been the first time. If you noticed, he had the pistol at that time.

Mrs. PORTER. This would be a more logical way of remembering, probably when he was taking the picture, because I really do not know right now where the pistol come from.

Mr. PREYER. Did you make any comment to Lee when the picture was being taken about the rifle and the pistol?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I probably did.

Mr. PREYER. Did you comment on both of them, the pistol and the rifle, do you recall?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't recall, but it is very possible that I did.

Mr. PREYER. Well, if you saw that Nixon or if you saw the pistol during the Nixon incident, why did you tell the Secret Service at that time that you had never seen Lee with a pistol?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, maybe at the time they questioned me I did not remember. Maybe I tried to protect myself from something, I do not know.

Mr. PREYER. You did know that Lee had killed Officer Tippit with the pistol at that time, did you not, so you knew he had used the pistol before?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, that is probably correct. I do not remember when I find out about Officer Tippit.

Mr. PREYER. Another area of some apparently contradictory statements is in the area of ammunition. You told us today that Lee practiced with a rifle and that you saw ammunition lying around and you told that to the Warren Commission, also.

Why did you tell the FBI on December 17, 1963, again shortly after the assassination, that you had never seen ammunition around the house?

Mrs. PORTER. For one simple reason, I was frightened of my well-being in this country.

Mr. PREYER. Would you like to make any general statement at this time about the earlier inconsistencies in your testimony? You have told us that they were, as I understand it, were due at first to your desire to protect Lee, perhaps to your fear of the FBI, perhaps to your fear of being a foreigner in a strange country.

Is that basically correct? Is there any further general explanation you would like to give of why there are these inconsistencies in your earlier testimony?

Mrs. PORTER. There was quite mixed emotions. I was very grateful to Mrs. Ruth Paine who gave us shelter when I needed it. I was very embarrassed about the fact that if she finds out that I knew about all this, the trips to Mexico and the rifle and things like that, it was very embarrassing for me to admit to myself that she has been used, you know, in a way. It would be against her religion and her beliefs and it was insulting for me to do such a thing to a friend. That was one part of it.

The fear for not being able, I mean for being prosecuted by law for knowing about those things, that was there, too.

Mr. PREYER. It has been alleged by some critics that the reason your story changed was not so much because of the reasons you have given or because of your own beliefs, but rather because the FBI and the Secret Service put pressure on you to incriminate Lee immediately after the assassination.

While the FBI and the Secret Service did question you, was there ever any pressure from them for you to give evidence that would incriminate Lee, evidence that you believed to be false?

Mrs. PORTER. No; that is not correct. I maybe like Secret Service and dislike FBI, but both of those people were working for one cause, to find the truth. The Secret Service did question in a more gentle way and I responded to that much better. The FBI sometimes were a little bit too brutal and my response was not as cooperative. Maybe in some little way I want to punish them for it, not to give them information or correct information but it was not for the reasons I have been accused of doing it. It was human mistakes, human error, in my own character.



I do apologize for it, but it is not because they tried to twist my arm and told me what should I tell and what not to tell. That is not true.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you, Mrs. Porter. I have no further questions at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The committee at this time will operate under the 5 minute rule. I might say to the members that we have to conclude today's hearing in this room by 4 p.m. Obviously, we will have to continue the hearing as it relates to this witness on tomorrow. We will proceed as far as we can this afternoon.

Mrs. Porter, throughout your testimony here today you have indicated that Lee Harvey Oswald always spoke of liking President Kennedy; is that correct?

Mrs. PORTER. That is true, sir.

Chairman STOKES. You never heard him speak of him in a hostile manner?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Chairman STOKES. Then is it consistent, in your opinion, then, that a man who spoke of President Kennedy as he did also was accused of having killed the President?

Mrs. PORTER. That is very hard for me to comprehend.

Chairman STOKES. Now, have you on occasions indicated that you thought perhaps he was not shooting at President Kennedy but was trying to hit someone else?

Mrs. PORTER. It was my aloud speculation which doesn't have any foundation for it because it was very hard for me to even think about a person who could like someone can do such a thing to him. The reason I mentioned Mr. Connally, I mentioned his name only because Lee was corresponding at one time in his life with Governor Connally.

Chairman STOKES. Can you tell us a little bit more about that? What had he in effect said about Governor Connally?

Mrs. PORTER. Not very much. I just learned from him when we were in Russia that he did write Governor Connally for some legal matter. I think about his coming back to the United States or have something to do with the service, I do not recall what it was.

But then he received a letter from Governor Connally. Lee pointed out the envelope with, instead of a stamp, it was Mr. Connally's picture on it and he explained to me that is how people who want to be elected, it is a form of advertisement before an election or something like that.

Chairman STOKES. Did this have something to do with the type of a discharge that he had which he was dissatisfied with?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, at the time I thought it was just a matter of getting entrance visa or permission to enter United States again. That is what I thought at the time. Anyway, I heard the name in the Soviet Union, Mr. Connally. I thought maybe he was angry somehow at that man.

Chairman STOKES. I am sorry?

Mrs. PORTER. I thought maybe for some reason he was angry at that man.

Chairman STOKES. In expressing that anger, do you recall what he said?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I did not say that he was expressing anger. Immaturely [sic] I tried to make some kind of logical explanation for why all this happened. It was hard for me to believe that he really was aiming at Mr. Kennedy.

Chairman STOKES. Were there several occasions in which he expressed himself regarding Governor Connally?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember right now.

Chairman STOKES. Can you recall having given testimony to someone regarding his attitude toward Governor Connally?

Mrs. PORTER. I had so many testimonies, I do not recall that. I don't remember.

Chairman STOKES. So at this time you have no recollection of that?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Chairman STOKES. You mentioned to us that when the two of you arrived in New York, that Lee Harvey Oswald was somewhat disappointed because the press was not there; is that correct?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember. It was in New York or in Dallas. Maybe when we got off the plane in Dallas, maybe that was when he expressed his disappointment.

Chairman STOKES. Why did he indicate that he was disappointed that the press was not there?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, he told me that it was in the news when he left the United States, so now probably the news media will be waiting for him over there just as well. So he told me to get prepared for it and nobody was there.

Chairman STOKES. So when no one was there, what did he say?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, it is not what he said but maybe just an expression on his face maybe indicated disappointment you know, because there was no one there.

Chairman STOKES. So then we are to understand that what he manifested was an expression or an attitude, not necessarily did he say anything or verbalize anything?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, I do not recall right now, that is correct. But somehow I did learn about that, he was, one way or another expressed this kind of statement.

Chairman STOKES. Were there other occasions that he indicated he felt he ought to get attention from the press?

Mrs. PORTER. No, I don't remember that. I don't remember other occasions.

Chairman STOKES. You said to Judge Preyer earlier today that Lee Harvey Oswald very much admired President Fidel Castro. Then you indicated right behind that that at about that time he appeared to be in a revolutionary mood. Do you recall that?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. Tell us what you meant by that?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, Fidel Castro, he was a new, how you call it, president of the new republic, and he was the leader of the revolution in Cuba and when Lee obtained a rifle, I guess that is somehow in my mind associated with some kind of revolution.

Chairman STOKES. Did he then often talk about revolution?

Mrs. PORTER. Not in this country.

Chairman STOKES. Not in this country?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Chairman STOKES. Where did he talk about revolution?

Mrs. PORTER. He talked about the revolution in Cuba, that already—

Chairman STOKES. Did he talk about it often?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. Can you recall what he said about it?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I don't remember the details right now.

Chairman STOKES. But he did talk about it often?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Chairman STOKES. My time has expired.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine.

Mr. DEVINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mrs. Porter, there won't necessarily be any continuity in my questions. I am going to question you about various things that have occurred to me during your previous testimony. I am not attempting to confuse you in any way.

First of all I would ask, you are in reasonably good health?

Mrs. PORTER. I am OK.

Mr. DEVINE. I notice you are in a habit of putting your left arm behind you. Are you uncomfortable in some way?

Mrs. PORTER. It is just an uncomfortable chair that the back hurts when you try to lean forward.

Mr. DEVINE. We will try to remedy that.

Are you now a citizen of this country?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I am not.

Mr. DEVINE. Has anyone during the course of these past 15 years threatened to deport you if you did not answer in a manner that they thought you should?

Mrs. PORTER. No; they have not.

Mr. DEVINE. They have not, you have had no such threats.

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. Going to another matter, when Lee obtained the job at the Texas School Book Depository, did he seek the job at that place or was it just happenstance as far as you know that he obtained a job there?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't understand your question, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. Did he seek a job at the Texas Book Depository specifically? Is that where he wanted to find a job?

Mrs. PORTER. I don't think so. He was looking for a job at the time.

Mr. DEVINE. As far as you know, that job just came up then and he didn't seek that particular location as far as you know?

Mrs. PORTER. No, no.

Mr. DEVINE. Did he mention to you when the Kennedy visit was discussed that he had a box seat for the motorcade in his present employment?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. He never mentioned that?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. When is the last time you spoke to your husband?

Mrs. PORTER. In jail after he was arrested.

Mr. DEVINE. Through the glass?

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. DEVINE. You were asked, I think, by Judge Preyer whether or not you received a telephone call from him and you said you don't remember.

Mrs. PORTER. I don't remember.

Mr. DEVINE. Now wouldn't you actually remember if that happened to be the last time you spoke to him while he was alive?

Mrs. PORTER. It doesn't ring a bell. I don't recall. In my memory, the last time I spoke to Lee was when he was in jail.

Mr. DEVINE. But you have no recollection of that?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. Did he ever talk to you about the shooting at General Walker?

Mrs. PORTER. Afterward, yes. Not very much, but only what I told you, that is all I remember.

Mr. DEVINE. This was afterward, of course, but what did he say about it, that he had missed or what?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, we had quite long discussions and if I go into details right now, which I do not remember, but the general idea was that he didn't think, I mean he thought he was really doing good service to a country by eliminating a person like Mr. Walker.

Mr. DEVINE. Did you happen to be watching television at the time your husband was shot by Jack Ruby?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. You did not see that incident?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. Was Jack Ruby ever at Mrs. Paine's home?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. Had you ever met him on any previous occasion?

Mrs. PORTER. Never.

Mr. DEVINE. You never were in contact with him after the incident?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. The morning that Lee left, he told you to stay in bed, that he would fix his own coffee. Did you see him leave?

Mrs. PORTER. You mean the driveway or the room?

Mr. DEVINE. That morning at 5 or 6?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I stayed in bed as far as I recall right now. I did not walk to the door.

Mr. DEVINE. You did not see him go down the street to pick up his ride?

Mrs. PORTER. No.

Mr. DEVINE. You then would not know whether he had anything with him?

Mrs. PORTER. I have no idea.

Mr. DEVINE. You didn't see him carrying the blanket covered gun?

Mrs. PORTER. No; I did not.

Mr. DEVINE. Did he say anything to you about having a venetian blind or a blind in the blanket?

Mrs. PORTER. No. No comment about that at all.

Mr. DEVINE. You said that when you first heard about the assassination, you were watching the television, I believe with Mrs. Paine, and you said the thought crossed your mind, and I think your exact words were, "I hope it was not Lee."

Mrs. PORTER. Yes.

Mr. DEVINE. What caused that to come to your mind? Had this been bothering you?

Mrs. PORTER. What, all the time or ever since or what time?

Mr. DEVINE. Had it occurred to you previously that he might do something like this?

Mrs. PORTER. No; when they mentioned School Book Depository, I knew that Lee was working over there. I don't know, a sixth sense or something like that. Although I just felt for some unknown reason—something just struck me.

Mr. DEVINE. The television revealed that the case occurred in front of the place where Lee worked. Did that cause you perhaps to believe that he might be involved?

Mrs. PORTER. Well, knowing about the incident with Walker, one would think, I hope it is not again.

Mr. DEVINE. I will ask further questions later. I think my time has expired.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired. I think this would be an appropriate time for the committee to adjourn until tomorrow morning. The Chair would first excuse the witness until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning. All persons in the hearing room are requested to remain in their seats until the witness has departed the room, after which the Chair will adjourn the hearings until tomorrow morning.

The meeting is adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, at 3:55 p.m. the committee adjourned, to reconvene on Thursday, September 14, 1978, at 9 a.m.]

