

9 April 1976

Mr. John Blumenthal
Associate Editor
Playboy
919 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago 60611

Dear Sir,

My enthusiasm for James McKinley's history of the JFK assassination is tempered by his inadequate and misleading presentation of evidence at several points--no doubt unintentional, but detracting from the authority of his work and sometimes creating the impression that he is something of an apologist for the Warren Report.

McKinley says, for example, that the Walker bullet "was too mutilated to determine if a Mannlicher-Carcano had fired it". The fact is that the Walker bullet was identified contemporaneously (April 1963) by a Dallas police spokesman as a 30.06 (and not a 6.5) projectile. Moreover, a contemporaneous Dallas police report described the Walker bullet as steel-jacketed (and not copper-jacketed). Therefore, mutilated or not, the indications are that the Walker bullet could not have come from the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle.

At another point McKinley says that Oswald was "arraigned for Tippit 's, and then for the President's murder", ignoring the arguments presented in at least two books that the arraignment for the JFK murder never took place and the fact that Warren Commission documents which were turned up years later in the National Archives vindicated those arguments. Commission document number 5, page 400, states categorically that, contrary to the assertions in the Warren Report, "no arraignment on the murder charges in connection with the death of President Kennedy was held..." because Oswald had already been arraigned for the murder of Tippit.

No one can quarrel, however, with McKinley's conclusion. Of course we need "a new investigation by an impartial, representative panel...dedicated only to discovering the facts and destroying the fictions". That is exactly what my fellow-critics and I have been urging for some ten years at least.

Yours sincerely,



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