

16 January 1976

Mr Jerome Agel
The Penthouse
75 East 55 Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Agel,

Your letter of the 13th reaches me at a very busy time, when it is not possible for me to reply to any of your questions which require research. However, I am glad to give you any relevant information which is already in my head.

(1) Oswald's left-handedness: There is ambiguous and contradictory evidence on this point. Personally, I concluded that Oswald was right-handed. This matter is discussed in the Hearings and Exhibits, in the following testimony and/or exhibits:

1H 84, 1H 163, 293-294, 326, 7H 281, 397
8H 72, 126, 151-52, 181, 9H 248, 10H 302,
11H 57. Commission Exhibits (CEs) 1401 p. 297,
2147, p. 17 2560.

(2) I cannot comment on the so-called bullet that missed without writing at very great length. Your question is based on the Warren Commission's conclusions about how many bullets there were, which hit, which missed or may have missed, and the like. But I do not accept either the Commission's premises or its conclusions and most emphatically I do not agree that there were three shots only. The number of shots is discussed in Thompson's book Six Seconds in Dallas, which I commend to you, as well as in other critical works.

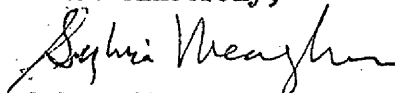
(2) I am not familiar with any allegation that Oswald and another man were firing side by side and in any case I do not consider that Oswald was firing at all, alone or with others. The cartridge casings are also discussed in Six Seconds in Dallas, which makes an important argument to the effect that one of the three cartridge cases found on the sixth floor could not have been used at all, in the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle or any other weapon, because of a deformity. Again, I cannot explore this matter properly without writing at much greater length than time permits.

(3) As I recall, Michael Paine was having lunch with a colleague at the aircraft (helicopter) plant where he worked, when the news of the shooting became known. When he heard of Oswald's arrest, he hastened to his wife's side (as I recall it). The Paines are now divorced. She lives in or near Philadelphia and is, I believe, relatively accessible.

(4) On the conversations of 21 November at the Paine home: if you mean the Warren Report proper, the relevant passages should be easy to find from the table of contents (I don't have a copy at hand as I am in my office). If you mean in the 26 volumes, I can only tell you that information on those conversations and events is scattered throughout the hearings and exhibits and especially in the testimony and interviews of Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald.

(5) Your final question to me was why did I think that Oswald had maintained that he was merely a patsy and had shot no one. I can answer only that I think he maintained this because it was the pure and simple truth. The reasons why I concluded that he was a pawn, and that he lacked the motive, means, and opportunity to murder either JFK or J.D. Tippit, the Dallas policeman, are detailed in my 500-page book Accessories After the Fact, and they do not lend themselves to summarization in a letter.

Yours sincerely,



Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
New York 10014