

Harry Swain

28 April 1981

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th. I had already read the Dick Sprague article on Blakey in Penn Jones' newsletter "The Continuing Inquiry". My opinion of Blakey has been negative from the outset. I am convinced that his purpose was to whitewash the Warren Report, and in effect that is what he really did, notwithstanding his defense of the acoustical evidence and his willingness to accept a second shooter on the grassy knoll. That merely concedes a small conspiracy, not incriminating the Government either in the crime or in the coverup performed by the Warren Commission. His hypothesis of an organized crime conspiracy is virtually unsupported by convincing evidence, and his attempt to tie Oswald to the underworld is ludicrous.

I do not wish to comment on Liften's book. I have such dislike and contempt for him on a purely personal level that I knew I could not be objective. As for Michael Kurtz, no, I have never heard of him and I would welcome any information that becomes available on him and/or his book.

I have not seen the Gallery piece on Nagell. As for the Scott/Heck book, it is definitely cancelled and will not appear. That is too bad!

The attempted assassination of Reagan is hardly what it seems on the surface to be. Vital aspects have never been discussed in the press. How does one account for the steep downward trajectory of his bullet if the shot was fired from the street level (and probably from a military crouch)? What about the observations of a television reporter on the scene who saw a man holding a handgun on a roof or overhang and described it on TV immediately after the shooting (but later said that the man was a Secret Service agent--a claim not verified by anyone)? What about the veritable rash of mentally unstable, alienated would-be assassins? I think we are seeing another cover-up of what may well have been a well-planned conspiracy.

I have recently been burned by the misuse of letters I have written to fellow-critics, so I will ask you please to regard this letter as purely personal and confidential and not to be shared with anyone.

My life is very quiet and I merely keep an eye out for assassination developments without actually working on the JFK case or any of the others. The "Master Index" was a grueling undertaking and the last project I intend to carry out. I will leave it to you younger people to keep at it! With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,