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A DIVISION OF PUBLISHERS' PROMOTION AGENCY INC.

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Thomas Stamm  
2705 Bainbridge Ave.  
Bronx, N. Y. 10458

Dear Mr. Stamm:

Here's a brief reply to your letter of Nov. 2. The press of time and various other projects prevent me from reviewing our vast research material to provide more detailed and specific answers.

Gerald Ford, if my memory serves me correctly, interviewed more witnesses and asked more questions than any other member of the commission. Ford's staff -- again I'm going by memory -- had three members. At least one was an attorney. The makeup of the staff can be found in the 27 volumes of the commission's report.

I have no reason to suspect that Ford's staff was comparable to Nixon's plumbers. The commission did hold all of its hearings in secret. There were few news leaks before the commission's report was written and made public.

Incidentally, Dr. Trowbridge Ford, a political scientist at Holy Cross College, has spent several years exploring a theory that John Kennedy's assassination grew out of a conspiracy involving Nixon, Gerald Ford and others. Dr. Ford has many details about the leadership role Gerald Ford played on the commission.

Gerald Ford wrote a story for Life Magazine about the commission investigation and detailed the commission's work in a book, "Portrait of An Assassin."

Leon Jaworski, according to then Texas Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr, was an attorney for the attorney general's office at the time of the assassination. Carr says he decided immediately after the assassination to hold a court of inquiry (He, of course, later changed his mind) and had assigned Jaworski to head the probe. Thus the probable conflict in the telephone interview with Nichols -- misrepresentation, oversight, or what have you.



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Representing Carr, Jaworski also sat in on commission hearings

The significance of the "misrepresentation" or "oversight"? Frankly, I don't know. Our intention in the Camelot-to-Watergate story was to present in context the roles various individuals played in both events -- the assassination and its subsequent investigation and the scandals of the Nixon Administration. We did not attempt to draw any conclusions. In fact, since that story ran I have received information about several other Watergate figures that also were involved in some way with the Kennedy investigation.

About your questions concerning Admiral Burkley, I must confess I'm not familiar with this area of the investigation. I have read accounts of the autopsy and other medical aspects of the Kennedy case, but the details escape me. But you have whetted my interest and I'll look into it.

I wouldn't know where to refer you if you seek particular facts about the Kennedy investigation -- so many separate investigations have been conducted. The Warren Commission volumes are a great source for details, but the problem is the volumes are poorly indexed and finding something there is like searching for a needle in a haystack. A number of good books have been written on the subject. I personally found Paris Flamonde's "The Kennedy Conspiracy" a good and accurate account of Jim Garrison's Louisiana investigation of the JFK case. A more recent book, Peter Noyes' "Legacy of Doubt" is a readable account of underworld ties with the Kennedy death. I understand Donald Freed of Los Angeles ("Executive Action," etc.) has just written a book about the comparison of Watergate with the Kennedy assassination; I assume it is along the same lines of my story.

I'm sorry I can't be of more help to you. Thanks for your interest.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Sincerely,