

2 Peter Cooper Road
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Jerry,

I've not read Belin's "Final Disclosure," the title as false as the Judenrat author. I do not expect to waste any of my Social Security on it. He is as he has always been and his new boom may be sicker than his first drek. He is sick,

I debated him once, at Vanderbilt, in 1975 and did him in so completely that less than 48 hours after we finished he'd returned home and held a press conference demanding a new investigation. He'd just before then taken an advance copy of my last book, Post Mortem, from someone on Capitol Hill to whom I'd sent it. This is what got him so excited to begin with.

I won't argue your completely untenable theory because you won't listen to anything not in accord with it but as a friend I tell you that you are not only entirely wrong on this but that some of what you say in what you enclosed is, from the official records you say you cite, is not what these records say and mean.

I got and read the contemplations of those sick shrink's whose entirely un-professional nonsense was available in transcript. They disgraced their profession.

Among other things that he wasn't, Oswald wasn't a woman-hater. And the Marina version you cite is the one compelled of her by the FBI. Why don't you go back to what she told the Secret Service before the FBI leaned on her, what she wrote out and the Commission did publish? Or what she has in the current Ladies Home Journal? Or what she'll be saying on TV soon, having been taped for the coming Anderson mishmash?

Besides the fact that you won't listen I don't have the time. I'm entering the hospital Monday.

But thanks for what you sent.

Please remember me to Walter and Agnes and

best to you and yours,

Harold

W YORK, N. Y. 10010
(212) 677-0808

Harold!

9/2/68



Newiday

Was JFK Oswald's Intended Target?

Was Lee Harvey Oswald really aiming at John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963 — or was his intended target then-Governor of Texas John Connally? According to media sources, new information on the assassination of JFK has been uncovered by writer James Reston Jr., son of The New York Times columnist, and will be included in his upcoming book for Harper & Row, "The Great Expectations of John Connally." The book, say those sources, will point to Connally, who was critically wounded in the attack on Kennedy's Dallas motorcade, as Oswald's true target. Though Reston is still writing the book, and doesn't expect to have it finished before January, he already has sold an excerpt to Time magazine. The excerpt is being considered for use as the magazine's cover story the week of November 22, marking the 25th anniversary of Kennedy's death. Reston's editor at Harper & Row, Ed Burlingame, confirmed Time's purchase of a piece of Reston's book, and the fact that it was being considered for the cover. "They're very enthusiastic about it," said Burlingame. Reston acknowledged that the book contains

a "potload of new information," but said he was unable to reveal details. "It's not my call," he explained.

10/26

Harold: Have you read Belin's new FINAL DISCLOSURE. I've marked up my copy with 's and ???s on nearly paragraph! The Globe and Vt.'s number-one newspaper are planning features on the Jackie "theory" in the next couple of weeks -- Harold, that's what happened in Big D.

JA

LETTERS.

WRONG VICTIM

New York City

Frank Donner's "Conspiracies Unlimited" [*The Nation*, Dec. 22, 1979] was right on target, which is more than I can say for the accused assassin of President Kennedy. Like Mr. Donner, I believe that the lumpen Lee Harvey Oswald did it alone—but previously suppressed and overlooked data have led me to the conclusion that he shot J.F.K. by mistake.

We must not be deceived or bemused by the stereotype that only Presidents can be the target of an assassin or that, as Mr. Donner noted, Presidents can be the victims only of a conspiracy. Leo Tolstoy wrote that accidents play at least as big a part in human affairs as, say, planning, contriving and willing. And misfiring is what I believe occurred in Dallas more than sixteen years ago.

Oswald, though eager to be remembered "for 10,000 years," inexplicably denied shooting the President, a crime that would have indeed made him memorable. Marina Oswald testified that her husband was the gunman, but that he must have had someone other than J.F.K. in mind. She asked if there were someone else important in the President's limousine. On the eve of the assassination, Marina felt "twenty-two fires" toward her husband, that is, volcanic fury, out-of-control anger. The overwrought and obsessive Oswald again became "seized by the fantasy" that he was the hero of an opera, *The Queen of Spades*, who slays the visiting queen. . . . After the assassination, Marina mysteriously said that her husband "must have staked everything on one card."

Oswald was a woman-hater, the natural orientation of a youth who had been raised and taunted by voracious women. When he felt humiliated and emasculated, he resorted to violence. In July 1964, in day-long *secret* testimony before the Warren Commission, a psychiatrist asserted that shooting the President would have been the furthest thing from Oswald's mind. His anger was directed at women, not at men. . . . In the cross hairs of his telescope, Oswald must have perceived his wife and his mother. . . .

The Federal Bureau of Investigation repeatedly testified that in months-long tests it could not duplicate the alleged accuracy of Oswald's antiquated weap-

on. The rifle and its cheap telescopic sights could not be aligned properly on the target. The scope was mounted off-center; it was a deficiency that could not be corrected. Bullets flew high and to the right of the aiming point. (The rifle had missed a "sitting duck" at 100 feet earlier in 1963.) Experts agree that the high-strung, emotionally depleted Oswald was "fantastically lucky" in placing his shots at the moving target. Now we know he wasn't. . . .

By shooting the *First Lady*—the apotheosis of the sex that was his tormentor, his wife's "goddess," the most glamorous and unattainable woman in the world—the "silly little Communist runt" (Mrs. Kennedy's later description of Oswald) would symbolically be destroying his Jackie-adoring wife, who had been "driving him crazy." George de Mohrenschildt told Warren Commission investigators that "the only person I ever heard Oswald say he wanted to kill was his wife. She was annoying him all the time . . . poor guy was going out of his mind." Kill a Marina would not confer immortality on him. But no First Lady had ever been slain. On learning that shots had been fired at the Presidential motorcade from Oswald's place of work, she asked, "Is Jackie all right?"

Believing the victim of a murder is perforce to have been the target is a reflection of what psychologists call "set theory." The Kennedy assassination demands an open mind. In his deranged vision, Oswald must have seen the chance at one stroke to avenge both his personal and the collective suffering of male-kind, and give the world proof of his own manhood. . . . But bullets aimed at the First Lady from the skewed rifle flew inexorably to the right and hit J.F.K.

Once one realizes the "incipient schizophrenic" was not shooting at the President (whom he admired) and that the assassination was a horrendous mistake—a typical Oswald mistake, by the way—everything falls into place. Sherlock Holmes noted that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

Robert Kennedy may have stimulated conspiracy theories by informing President Johnson that he was satisfied that Oswald had acted alone and the case

should be closed. One door he wanted kept locked and bolted was the Government's surreptitious plots to murder Fidel Castro. J.F.K., after all, had been in the assassination business himself. If "the 'nob'" had shot J.F.K., R.F.K. would have pursued it to the ends of the earth.

Jerome Agel



JEROME B. AGEL

DID THE ASSASSIN KILL THE PRESIDENT BY MISTAKE?

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LIZ SMITH, N.Y. Daily News and syndicate:...extremely well written, researched, and full of shocking detail...the dynamic conclusion is a shocker.

DR. HUMPHRY OSMOND, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Bryce Hospital): The solution is unheard of, and therefore outside the realm of a routine, expected view of possibility. You have shaken the pieces and produced an entirely new and for me much more convincing pattern. All the rest of us have been deceived and bemused by a stereotype, which is false immediately. You have, I believe, solved a detective story elegantly by refusing to be diverted. Once one realizes that the assassin was not aiming at the President, the whole thing falls into place.

DR. JOHN K. LATTIMER, Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the Journal of the American Medical Association: If the telescopic sight had not been incorrectly pointed, so as to cause the bullets to strike to the right of the aiming point, the First Lady might very well have been hit by the fatal bullet that struck her husband in the head. (Repeated careful tests of the rifle, made by the F.B.I., revealed that the telescopic sight was pointed incorrectly, causing the rifle to fire all of its shots about 4 inches to the right of the target point and a little high.)

DR. LAWRENCE ZELIC FREEDMAN, Psychiatric Research Unit, The University of Chicago: Most important acts have a number of determinants. You have made a very good case for one of them..."22 Fires" is very well written.

NEW YORK

70AYS

ONE DOLLAR

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF NEW YORK

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 26

9 - 28 - 88

DERANGED VISION

Don DeLillo in *Libra* may have tackled JFK's murder "less with the intention of bringing a solution to light..." ("Inventing Oswald," September 21), but the co-authors of the nonfiction novel *22 Fires* (Bantam Books) went all out with an open mind to solve the mystery.

Their conclusion, based on previously suppressed and overlooked data, was that Lee Harvey Oswald was shooting—intentionally—at the first lady and killed the president by mistake.

To hit the president, Oswald *had* to aim at Mrs. Kennedy, to JFK's left. Did he want to kill her? Yes! During the interrogations, Oswald said he knew nothing about the shooting of the president. He didn't know what had gone wrong.

By shooting Jackie—the apotheosis of the gender that was his tormentor—Oswald would be symbolically destroying his Jackie-adoring, estranged wife, who had been "driving him crazy." Killing Marina would not confer upon Oswald the immortality he was seeking. Marina, on learning that shots had been fired at the presidential motorcade from Oswald's place of work, asked immediately (according to her autobiography), "Is Jackie all right?"

Believing the victim of a murder is perforce to have been the target is a reflection of what psychologists call "set theory." In his deranged vision, Oswald must have seen the chance at one stroke to avenge both his personal and the collective suffering of male-kind, and give the world proof of his manhood. Oswald was a longtime woman-hater.

Once one realizes the "incipient schizophrenic" was not shooting at the president (whom he admired) and that the assassination was a horrendous mistake, everything falls into place.

Jerome Agel
Co-author, *22 Fires*
New York, N.Y.



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September 24, 1988

Sir:

I think it would have been reader-helpful if my edited letter (Vol. 1, no. 26) on the accidental assassination of President Kennedy had included the reference to the technological evidence that led us to conclude in our book 22 Fires (Bantam Books) that the life-long misogynist Lee Harvey Oswald was aiming his badly misaligned rifle at the First Lady when he struck down her husband.

Gun experts repeatedly testified before the Warren Commission that they could not duplicate the alleged accuracy of Oswald's weapon. The rifle and its cheap telescopic sights could not be aligned properly on the target. The scope was mounted offcenter; it was a deficiency, they said, that could not be corrected. Bullets flew high and to the right of the aiming point. (Mrs. Kennedy was at JFK's left.) The rifle had missed a "sitting duck" (General Walker) at 100 feet earlier in the year. The experts agreed that the high-strung, emotionally depleted Oswald had to be "fantastically lucky" to aim at the President and to hit him. There is no evidence proving that Oswald knew his gun didn't shoot straight. He was aiming at Mrs. Kennedy because he wanted to slay her.

Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades" was Oswald's favorite opera. It is unfortunate that the Washington Opera company will not be able to stage its planned production (The New York Times, Sept. 22, 1988). The audience would discern how the obsessive Oswald could become "seized by the fantasy" (Marina Oswald's phrase) that he was the opera's hero who slays the visiting queen -- which Mrs. Kennedy was in Dallas. After the assassination, Mrs. Oswald mysteriously declared that her husband "must have staked everything on one card."

Jr. Humphry Osmond, who coined the word "psychedelic" in a letter to A. Huxley (who, coincidentally, also died on 11/22/63), has written a 19-page essay supporting "the Jackie theory" -- "at last we know Oswald's motivation" -- and it appears in his book "Predicting the Past" (Macmillan).

Cordially,

Jerome Agel
Jerome Agel

jba/h

*HW
This also was put'd.*

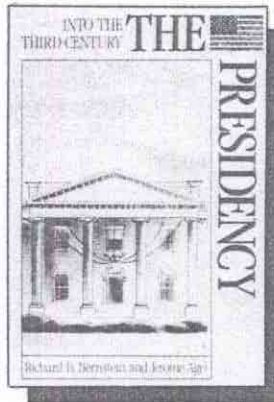


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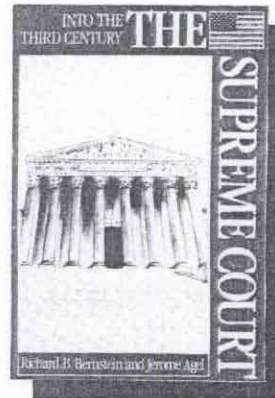
The Presidency

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The Congress

★ ★ ★



The Supreme Court

★ ★ ★

by Richard B. Bernstein and Jerome Agel

Since their creation two hundred years ago by men who could never imagine jet planes and integration and nuclear bombs and instant worldwide communication, the Presidency, the Congress, and the Supreme Court have clashed bitterly with one another as often as they have cooperated.

The Founding Fathers designed our government to work that way. They relied on separation of powers and a system of checks and balances to restrain government from becoming a tyranny. They wanted to make sure that all parts of the government work for "We the People."

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Richard B. Bernstein is the author of *Are We to Be a Nation? The Making of the Constitution*, a nominee for the 1988 Pulitzer Prize in U. S. History. He is a constitutional and legal historian, and is serving as historical consultant to the New York City Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution.

Jerome Agel has written and produced over forty books, including collaborations with Carl Sagan, Marshall McLuhan, Isaac Asimov, and Stanley Kubrick. His books on U.S. history include *100 Americans Who Made History: America at Random*; *The Little Red, White, and Blue Book*; and *The U.S. Constitution for Everyone*.

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