

Jerome B. Agel
The Penthouse
75 East 95 St.
New York, N.Y. 10022

10/19/80

Dear Jerry,

As my wife wrote, the day of your letter I was in surgery in Georgetown, D.C., getting a plastic artery in the left thigh. That went remarkably well, only two weeks later a bunch of junk broke loose, the very day I got home, and I had to go back for further surgery, to remove what trash could be reached. They got down to the ankle but could not get what is in the foot. I got home again Thursday, feeling OK, but severely limited in the amount of walking that is possible. Until this night (Sat/Sunday) I've been making out OK, but this was a painful, largely sleepless and worrisome night. So at 4 a.m. I'm trying to keep busy, first by responding to your new inquiries.

Under these circumstances you can understand that I can have some difficulty in recalling some of what I wrote in response to your earlier inquiry. I'll do the best I can.

You did not tell me your sudden interest. I think you should, not only in fairness but so that I may better help you. If your interest is in theyour own 22 Fires, forget it as fast as you can. Your theorizing is not tenable. And if you want more information, please phone me. I have an enormous accumulation in addition to all the work I couldn't get to for so many years.

"...there is only one solid thing of which I am aware" that did not appear earlier in my writing. I don't recall what this is.

"You also mention the requirements of litigation. What does that mean, if you can recall the reference?" I can't. I am involved in much and long-lasting litigation. It is possible that the two coincide, that Lifton has tumbled to what I've been working on for years, the weight of Bullet 399. This is involved in the longest-lasting of all FOIA cases, now on remand.

"Was Kerry W.(endell) Thornley's Marine buddy of Oswald's" or is this merely a similar name. On this we have only Thornley's ~~xxx~~ very questionable word. There was a time when he and Lifton were close. When Oswald was at Santa Ana and getting his discharge Thornley says they were buddies but that Oswald broke off when Thornley red-baited him. He did put out a thin, undersized book, closer to a pamphlet. As I recall he drew on an earlier and useless ms called The Idle Warriors. Much of this nothingness consisted of Thornley's commission testimony.

I think the Summers book is another of the conspiracy commercializations, put together cleverly and commercially but otherwise over-written trashy theorizing that is not supported by the evidence. Some of this personal claims, carefully put as they are, are not true. For example, re Carolyn Arnold, where he also was not even honest. The mafia stuff is nonsense.

I'm getting bad on names, even those I know well. Perhaps as I write the one you ask for will return. It is an old-time Washington Post staffer who writes the V.I.P. column. She gave the Lifton book a big blurb, entirely uncritically. If I don't recall her name my wife will and we'll add it. Don't know if she reached Lifton. *Maxine Cheshire*

I don't write the editors asserting that if Lifton/McMillan know who killed JFK they should not wait because that would only puff the book more and I don't think the time it would take will be spent as usefully and I can spend that time.

The puffery in PW is virtually boilerplate for the field. And I doubt that Lifton's is "the most painstaking study ever conducted of the murder and the cover-up."

Best wishes,

7627 Old Receiver Rpad
Frederick, MD 21701

9/18/80

Mr. Jerome B. Agel
The Penthouse
75 East 55 St.
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Agel:

Your letter of September 16 arrived this morning. Harold will reply when he is home and ambulatory. Right now he is a surgical patient in Georgetown Hospital in Washington having just had some arterial repairs made.

Hopefully he will be home sometime next week.

Sincerely,

Lillian Weisberg



JEROME B. AGEL THE PENTHOUSE 75 EAST 55 STREET NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

PLAZA 5-2220

September 16, 1980

Dear Harold:

How prompt and how thorough -- as always!

Here's the full-page ad for the Lipton in last week's issue of Publisher's Weekly. It appeared on the inside front cover of the issue; on the front cover was the announcement that 100 Years From Now People Will Still Be Talking About This * Book (or some such rave).

You write that there is only one solid thing of which I am aware in the Lipton that did not appear earlier in yours. What is that?

You also mention the requirements of litigation. What does that mean, if you can recall the reference?

I have said hello to Walter and family for you, and shall pass on your fondest wishes to Sally Belfrage. Her husband was the author of THE ELEPHANT MAN, a big two-year Broadway hit, still running.

Was Kerry W. Thornley a Marine buddy of Oswald's. Or is the name simply similar to the buddy (mentioned in the Warren Report, I believe; he may even have been a witness). I think he even tried to write a book.

What did you think of CONSPIRACY, the Summers book?

Who was the reporter who called for the Lipton address? Did he talk with Lipton and do a piece? I'd like to know what the piece says. Why don't you write Letter to the Editor of important periodicals (Post, Times, Publishers' Weekly, 1180 Avenue of the Americas), asserting that if Macmillan knows who killed J.F.K. and how and why -- data ~~is~~ the rest of us don't have -- it has a moral duty to release the material now, not four months from now, Pub. Date.

Please keep in touch. And please be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerome". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.