

FMW:MFR:DCS:em
File: 129-11

cc: Files ✓
Stephenson
White House
Copeland

7/6

JUL 14 1967

[REDACTED]

-7C aut 7/14/67

Dear [REDACTED] -7C

The President has asked me to reply to your letter of July 6, 1967, concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. Your letter criticizes both the methods and the conclusions of the Warren Commission and urges a new investigation.

We are saddened to learn that you believe that the Commission deliberately misled the public. This charge is in our considered opinion without any basis in fact.

Regarding your criticism of the Commission's procedures and in particular the claim that the "failure to conduct the investigation in the adversary tradition of American jurisprudence leads thinking people to believe there was something to hide," you should be aware that the Warren Commission's proceedings were not the equivalent of a criminal trial of Oswald. In view of his death, it was impossible to establish the facts by a trial or equivalent adversary proceeding. The function of the Commission, in any event, was not limited to issues that would have been appropriate in a criminal trial of Oswald. These considerations are more fully developed in the evaluation by the Commission of its function set forth at pages xiv to xv of its report, which you may find helpful in assessing its procedures and results.

*Encl. 5
wfs*

RECEIVED AND MAILED
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
JUL 14 1967 9

As to your disagreement with the conclusions of the Commission and your demand for a new investigation, it should be noted that the authors who have criticized the conclusions of the Warren Commission do not claim to have any significant new evidence, so far as we are aware. Rather, their criticisms and demands for a new inquiry are based upon different conclusions they have drawn from parts of the same body of evidence that was examined by the Commission. The Commission made a thorough inquiry and detailed analysis of the facts concerning the assassination. The evidence amply supports the basic conclusions of the Commission. In these circumstances, we see no basis for a new inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

Frank M. Wozencraft
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Counsel

By Martin F. Richman
First Assistant

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: The Attorney General

Date: July 11, 1967

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
 - President's signature.
 - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

JUL 12 2 35 PM '67

REMARKS:

Description:

Letter: Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: [REDACTED] 7C

Date: 7/10/67

Subject: Questions conduct, intent of Warren Commission; asks new investigation

27 JUL 12 1967

By direction of the President:

H.A.G.

~~OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL~~
 Whitney Shoemaker
 Assistant to the President

lcc

(Copy to remain with correspondence)

7C

July 6, 1947

President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D. C.

129-11

Dear Mr. President:

27

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

I have read and studied with great interest and astonishment the testimony and nature of investigations conducted by the Warren Commission with regard to solving the crime of the assassination and establishing the criminal. I have resisted writing this letter until I was convinced, in my own mind, that I was qualified to do so, and that a disservice had been done to so many people. It is a saddening and disheartening experience to discover that the principles of my country are only for school boys and propagandist purposes.

I am referring mainly to the unquestionably and shamefully deliberate misuse, misrepresentation, omission, paraphrasing, misquotation and discriminate inclusion of testimony, taken by the Commission, and printed to the public as an authorized and

Special answer to all questions. The failure to conduct the investigation in the adversary tradition of American jurisprudence leads thinking people to believe there was something to hide; the preposterous methods, fantastic reconstructions and manner of investigation in general only succeeded in confirming this belief. It is a clear violation of public trust through misuse of authority and failure to fulfill responsibilities.

The government of the United States is supposed to exist for the benefit of the people of this country. It seems logical that government agencies, as an instrument of government, exist for the same purpose. The President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy's real function was to solve the crime for the people. Whitewash and rubber-stamping are tools of dictators, and should play no part in reaching this end. If everyone could conduct his own investigation, no governmental investigation would be necessary, but

this is seriously impractical. The Commission operating for the benefit of the people, should do what each individual can not. It should investigate and make available to the public the answers based on all the evidence without a predetermined solution, one-sided investigation, and censorship of relevant material.

This, sadly, is not the case. The sham of an investigation produced, directed, censored and projected by the Commission does a disservice to every citizen and is a sad commentary on our leaders. I can only think that a policy of this magnitude is made at the presidential level. It is not so much the facts but the reasons behind this policy and the method of implementation that are of great concern to me. The protection of our nations interests as a reason is weak and tissue paper thin. The national interest has been irreparably damaged in the areas of foreign image and public confidence in

the government. The presentation of a report whose basic implausibility is so obvious, can only serve to destroy public confidence.

The most distressing part of this policy is the way in which it was, and still is being carried out. The disconcerting facts cause apprehension as to motives. The ability, and need, to cheat the public through the control of the mass media is astonishing. The attempt to convince the public by the use of subtle rumors, character destruction, and discrediting any opposition is tantamount to brainwashing. Through the exploitation of public trust, you sir, have sought to destroy doubt and implant in the minds of each citizen a fantasy that is passing for history and will become heritage.

To go into detail and fact on this account serves no purpose, but to censor, oppress, suppress, and generally dictate public thought is un-American, and a violation of the

authority vested, in you sir, by the people..
If the democratic form of government
is workable, and its contributions
to civilization important, there is no
way to insure its preservation. Conversely,
it seems the route for eradication of
basic human rights! If every American
understood the consequences implicit
in that conjecture, and how closely it
touches every citizen, apathy would no
longer prevail. If the government can
spread fantasy successfully on one
subject, wouldn't it be plausible to
believe that this misused power extends
to other issues, Viet Nam for instance.

When a government gains public con-
fidence and approval through falsifications
it is violating public trust, but when
it actively and clandestinely suppresses
opposition it commits a crime against
every citizen

A standard government reply
to my letter will not allay my
fears or divert my efforts. An

impartial reinvestigation conducted
by our citizens, not our politicians, will
be my only source of satisfaction. If
this is not forthcoming I intend to
work with others who have shown
interest to inform the general public
and hopefully force a reinvestigation.
You, Mr. President, have the power
and responsibility to correct this
immeasurably important wrong.

Very sincerely yours,



(and a large number of
other conscientious citizens)

-7C

Typed: 6/15/68
FMV:RCN:ehd
129-11

July 25, 1968

Honorable Phillip Burton
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

This is in response to your communication of July 3, 1968
transmitting a letter from [redacted] 7C
concerning the assassination of President Kennedy.

The authors who have criticized the conclusions of the Warren Commission do not claim to have any significant new evidence, so far as we are aware. Rather, their criticisms and demands for a new inquiry are based upon different conclusions they have drawn from parts of the same body of evidence that was examined by the Commission. The Commission made a thorough inquiry and detailed analysis of the facts concerning the assassination. The evidence amply supports the basic conclusions of the Commission. In these circumstances, we see no basis for a new inquiry.

We can only point out that neither Mr. Garrison nor Mr. Shaw has ever discussed these proceedings with Federal authorities. The Federal District Court's order temporarily restraining Mr. Garrison from proceeding with the trial of Mr. Shaw was issued at the request of Mr. Shaw and his attorneys. In these circumstances, we do not feel it would be proper for us to comment on a case pending before both the state and Federal courts.

As always, it is a pleasure being of assistance. Your enclosure is returned herewith.

Sincerely,

FRED M. VINSON, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

Records
Chrono
Nalley
Mr. Vinson
Deputy AG

SENT BY MESSENGER
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
JUL 25 1968

cc
7/15
mdf
7/22

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EM

861

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

..... July 3 1968

Department of Justice
Congressional Liaison
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		R
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CRIMINAL-GENERAL TIME SECT		

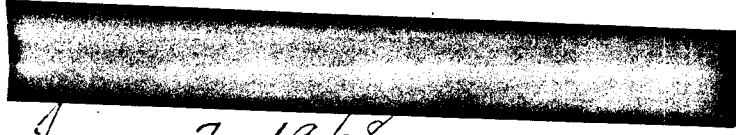
Enc 2

Very truly yours,

JUL 10 1968

APPEALS & RESEARCH SECTION
PHILLIP BURTON, CRIMINAL DIVISION
M.C.

California - Fifth District



7C

June 7, 1968

RECEIVED

JUN 9 1968

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Hon. Phillip Burton
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Burton:

I am absolutely outraged over the Federal Court ruling in the Jim Garrison case in Louisiana. Because those men refuse to reveal their evidence they could end up in jail. Imagine!

It becomes increasingly clear that there is an enormous cover-up in the assassination of President Kennedy, and that Mr. Garrison has a good enough case to make some people very uncomfortable.

We need not wonder what is wrong in our country when

so many men in high places
seem to be rotten to the core. of
course we have some good ones too.
But if my statement sounds strong
to you just let me quote, "By
their fruits shall ye know them".

I expect you as my repre-
sentative to do your best to get
this wicked, unconstitutional
ruling rescinded. Let the
American Public have the real
truth about that killing. It
should be understood by all in
Washington that the people do
not accept that stupid Warren
Report. That is an insult to the
intelligence; else why such
fear of letting Mr. Garrison's
case come to light.

They have only succeeded

is increasing our suspicions
that there is something very
rotten in Denmark.

Who is so afraid???

Thank you for your attention
to this.

Yours very truly

[Redacted signature]

7C

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]

Typed: ~~xx~~ 7/11/68
FMV:RAH:ehd
129-11

July 12, 1968

Honorable George E. Brown, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

This is in further response to your communication of July 3, 1968 transmitting two letters from constituents of yours who question the findings of the Warren Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Of course, the Warren Commission's proceedings were not the equivalent of a criminal trial of Oswald. In view of his death, it was impossible to establish the facts by a trial or equivalent adversary proceeding. The function of the Commission, in any event, was not limited to issues that would have been appropriate in a criminal trial of Oswald. These considerations are more fully developed in the evaluation by the Commission of its function set forth at pages xiv to xv of its report, which your constituents may find helpful in assessing its procedures and results.

Undoubtedly you are aware that President Johnson in his news conference on November 4, 1966 said: "I know of no evidence that would in any way cause any reasonable person to have a doubt about the Warren Commission. But if there is any evidence and it is brought forth, I am sure that the Commission and the appropriate authorities will take action that may be justified".

The authors who have criticized the conclusions of the Warren Commission do not claim to have any significant new evidence, so far as we are aware. Rather, their criticisms and demands for a new inquiry are based upon different conclusions they have drawn from parts of the same body of evidence that was examined by the Commission. The Commission made a thorough inquiry and detailed analysis of the facts concerning the assassination. The evidence amply supports the basic conclusions of the Commission. In these circumstances, we see no basis for a new inquiry.

Enclosure
Records
Chrono
Hammagin
Mr. Vinson
Deputy AG

RECEIVED AND FILED
1968 JUL 12 W.D.R.

-2-

We can only point out that neither Mr. Garrison nor Mr. Shaw has ever discussed these proceedings with Federal authorities. The Federal District Court's order temporarily restraining Mr. Garrison from proceeding with the trial of Mr. Shaw was issued at the request of Mr. Shaw and his attorneys. In these circumstances, we do not feel it would be proper for us to comment on a case pending before both the state and Federal courts.

I hope that this information will be helpful. Your enclosures are returned herewith.

Sincerely,

FRED M. VINSON, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 3, 1968

Respectfully referred to

Congressional Liaison
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are two letters I have received from constituents regarding the investigation conducted by Jim Garrison.

I would appreciate your reviewing their comments and furnishing me with any information that would be helpful in replying.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return the correspondence along with your reply.

Very respectfully,

GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.
Calif.

129-11

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	R
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JUL 5 1968	
CRIMINAL GEN. CRIME SEC.	

M.C., 29th District.
16-76359-1 GEB/1k

Notes June 17, 1968

JUN 20 1968

Representative Brown:

I am writing this letter to make you aware of my feelings concerning a controversial issue.

The issue is that of the assassination of President John Kennedy and the investigation being carried out by the District Attorney of New Orleans, J. Garrison.

Mr. Garrison has raised some doubts as to the validity of the Warren Commission Report and the facts as they have been revealed to the American public. He seems to say that there is a shadow of doubt as to whether Lee Oswald was the lone assassin, or, in fact whether Lee Oswald is at all guilty of the crime.

It seems to me, from what I have learned in school, concerning the rights of accused Americans, that one should be proven guilty beyond a reasonable shadow of doubt. Mr. Garrison has raised this shadow of doubt. He is doing it on the state level, and as such the Federal Government seems to have no jurisdiction, but several weeks ago a federal court intervened to stop the proceedings, this seems to have no legal ground or precedence in the history of American jurisprudence.

I convey to you my concern of the governments intervention in the legal proceedings of the State of Louisiana, and their seemingly endless contrivance in the work of Mr. Garrison.

I also, convey to you my wish that you become interested in this gravest of questions concerning my (and your) government, and to bring the truth, without question, to all the constituents of our government.

Perhaps you think that I hold a minority opinion. You may base this on the few letters you receive on this issue. If I say to people write to your representative, they only say 'sure, what good will that do', let us not lose faith in our system and in truth. This question is of concern to many people. I believe what I learned in school about America and what she stands for, I do not want any doubts now.

VED

JUL 8 1968

CRIMINAL DIVISION

Notes

These doubts will not be removed by an answered letter of standard form without further thought, consideration, or action. I heartily believe that something can be done on the federal level to renew the investigation and that it must start somewhere. Let the somewhere be with you and your colleagues and let the time be NOW.

I write this as an individual, but as I have said, many people share these thoughts to some degree.

Sincerely Yours

([REDACTED])

7c

June 21, 1968

The Honorable George E. Brown, Jr. JUN 26 1968
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Brown:

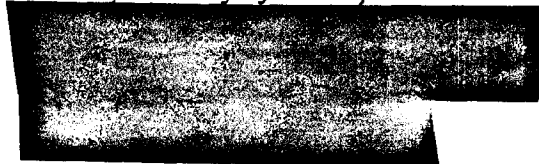
I'm sure that you are getting a lot of communication from desperate and concerned people pleading and demanding stiffer gun control laws. This is fine. I'm of the mind that guns should be totally outlawed in this country--not legislated. But I have no illusions that gun control of any kind is a viable measure against future political assassinations.

The truth lies with District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans. And whether you agree or not I wonder if you are aware that Robert Kennedy did believe in Jim Garrison. That Robert Kennedy in fact conveyed to Jim Garrison that he knew, as he put it "there are many guns between myself and the White House." Thus fully aware of the conspiracy on his brother's life and fully aware of the implications for himself, he told Garrison that if elected he would prosecute those responsible. Now he is gone.

(If you wish you may verify this by either contacting Radio Station KPFK which broadcasted the tape of Garrison's statement or Garrison himself). And what you choose to believe after that is your private matter. But I would put to you that it is one of the most crucial issues threatening our country today and that it is a most urgent that you, who I have voted for and respect highly, and that other clear thinking Congressmen and Senators move immediately to see that Garrison at least gets a chance in court--to either prove--or disprove his case against the government.

I think this is the least Americans deserve, having been deprived of the most hopeful and brilliant leaders this country could ever create. I think it is the least we owe to their memories. I think it is the least we owe to our country. I hope that you will act and act quickly.

Very truly yours,



7c



7c

Typed: 7/9/68

FMV:WSB:km
129-11

July 11, 1968

The Vice President
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

This is in reply to your inquiry of July 2, 1968,
concerning a letter you received from [redacted] -7C

7C [redacted] appears to be laboring under a misapprehension concerning the status of this Department in the criminal case filed against Clay Shaw. This Department has taken no action of any description to interfere with the trial of that case. Recently Mr. Shaw filed an action in the Federal court to enjoin the prosecution of the criminal charges against him, and on the basis of the allegations set forth the court issued a temporary restraining order.

We hope this report will be of assistance in replying to [redacted]. It has been our pleasure to serve you in this matter. 7C

We are returning [redacted] letter, as you requested.

Sincerely, 7C

FRED M. VINSON, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

Records
Chrono
Mr. Block
Mr. Vinson

SENT BY MESSENGER
COMMUNICATIONS SEC.
JUL 11 1968

NA
or
OK
7/10
BET
7/9

WSB
7/9

129-11



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1968

TO: Congressional Liaison
Department of Justice

FROM: William B. Welsh
Administrative Assistant

Enclosed is correspondence received by the Vice President. Could you provide a report on this matter? If the action called for can appropriately be taken, this would be appreciated.

✓ Please address your reply to the Vice President, returning the correspondence.

See 144, 32, 1220

LETTER FROM



-7C

RECEIVED

JUL 3 1968

CRIMINAL DIVISION

129-11	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
10	JUL 3 1968
R.A.D.	
CRIMINAL-GEN. CRIME SECT	

RECORDED

1. Corres Unit

JE

June 26, 1968



7C

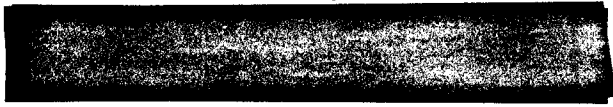
Hubert H. Humphrey
Vice President
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

We are definitely in favor
of stronger gun legislation,
registration of all guns.

Also, why is the government
preventing Jim Garrison from
trying Clay Shaw on charges
of conspiracy in the assassination
of John F. Kennedy?

Sincerely



-7C

See last paragraph.

I think you or Tully requested interviews of Andrews
7C (re [redacted] and those mentioned by [redacted] in interview 7C
7C [redacted] somebody) and perhaps get from [redacted] info 7C
as to whether he'd called Andrews in hospital, etc.

FV

*True
Civ 7/6*