

## Rebuts Garrison items

Dear Editor:

A recent article in which you award me the unearned title of "defender" of District Attorney Jim Garrison, prompts me to raise certain points concerning Mr. Garrison's latest claims.

(1) On the front page of your Dec. 22-28 issue you print a photo showing a convertible passing the drain outlet on the north side of Elm Street. Fairly enough, you point out that this photo (taken from the drain outlet) does not accurately represent the position of the President's car at the time Kennedy was shot, and then go on to estimate "that Kennedy's car was approximately 25 feet further back and to the left of this angle." Actually, at the time of the head impact the President's car was some eighty feet distant from the drain outlet. This means that a bullet striking the President's head at this point and fired from the drain outlet would necessarily have passed through the bodies of Secret Service agent Roy Kellerman and Governor Connally.

(2) In the same issue you print various photos which purport to show the discovery of a 45 calibre bullet in the grass on the south side of Elm Street. On page 10 you print Mr. Garrison's remark that "we have photographs of the bullet, and in the photograph we see Deputy Sheriff Eddy Walthers of Dallas, smoking a cigarette and looking down at the bullet..." The man described by

Mr. Garrison as ~~copy waiters~~ is none other than Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker. The man leaning down picking up the "bullet" (later described by Mr. Garrison as "a Federal Agent") resembles Luke Mooney, one of Decker's deputies. But the critical question concerns the existence of the alleged "bullet." Some months ago I examined prints of these same photos in New York and never saw anything remotely resembling a bullet, i.e. alone a 45 calibre bullet. What makes Mr. Garrison believe that these photos show a bullet at all?

Mr. Garrison deserves defense from the scurrilous innuendoes circulated by the mass media and the popular press. But he also deserves criticism when he treats the evidence with carelessness or makes charges which cannot be substantiated. Students of the assassination will not soon forget the antics of another district attorney, Henry Wade. Let us hope that the district attorney of New Orleans marches to a different tune than his Dallas colleague.

Sincerely yours,  
Josiah Thompson  
Haverford, Pa.

(Editor's note: Josiah Thompson is the author of "Six Seconds in Dallas." A letter in the Jan. 5 Free Press, from Raymond Marcus, also stated that the distance between the Kennedy car and the storm drain was "approximately 95-100 feet".)