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DEBATES

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GARRISON

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Tonight: The Jim Garrison Show

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To anyone who watches the Johnny Carson Tonight Show, there can be little doubt that it scrupulously avoids controversial issues. Carson himself candidly admits this. In a recent interview with Playboy Magazine, he said: "Controversy just isn't what this show is for ... I think it would be a fatal mistake to use my show as a platform for controversial issues."

And there can be little doubt that the network feels exactly the same way about controversy as Carson does—only more so. And so one wonders, this being the case, why they would invite the one man who is undoubtedly the most controversial figure in the United States today to appear as a guest.

It seems obvious that some very important people wanted Jim Garrison on the show to do an extensive and thoroughgoing hatchet job on him. They wanted several million people to see him eaten alive, cut to ribbons at the hands of an old professional like Carson.

It didn't happen. When Garrison

appeared last Wednesday night it was obvious Carson intended to keep him off balance and make a laughing stock of him at every possible opportunity. The usual smiling, sparkling Carson charm was strikingly absent. He was hostile, sarcastic. His face reflected great loathing and distaste.

But even as Carson tried repeatedly to trip him up, Garrison answered each question with surprising perspicacity, speaking with simple earnestness and authority. There was very little hatchet work Carson could successfully accomplish.

And an amazing thing happened: somewhere in the middle of the interview the audience changed sides! Garrison had them laughing at his jokes as he poked fun at the Warren Commission. He even had them laughing at Carson—not with him. And in the final few minutes of the show, the audience several times gave Garrison a deafening round of applause!

These were some of the high-

lights:

GARRISON: We have found that the Central Intelligence Agency without any question, had individuals ... involved.

CARSON: You have absolute facts and proof of that?

GARRISON: Without any question, I wouldn't say so otherwise.

CARSON: When you say these things, Mr. Garrison, as we have found, and it comes out in print, people accept this, as an established fact, and you say it is an established fact, but it has not been proved in any court of law.

Has it? This is what you are theorizing...

GARRISON: It's partly true, except that I'm not theorizing. I'm telling you what we know to be fact.

CARSON: But nobody else seems to.

GARRISON: But nobody else has looked into it. This has never been investigated before. It wasn't investigated by the federal government. That was no attempt to investigate—that was just an operation to conceal evidence. This is the first investigation they've ever had into the case.

CARSON: What would you call the Warren Commission?

GARRISON: I would say that the function of the Warren Commission was to make the American people feel that the matter had been looked into, so that there would be no further inquiries, and the American people would not find out about the involvement of elements of the Central Intelligence Agency, and so that they would think that the matter was closed.

CARSON: For what possible reason would they wish to do that?

GARRISON: First of all, I have to identify my answer now as speculation because you're asking me to go inside their minds. I think they could answer this better than I. But if you want to know my opinion, it was probably presented to them as a matter of national security. I'm sure they rationalized that way because these weren't evil men. I'm sure they were essentially good men, but the fact remains that their conclusion was totally untrue. Patently untrue. And they had to know it! In my judgment there is not one person in the United States who has gone through the twenty-six volumes of the Warren Commission inquiry who does not recognize that the conclusion of the Warren Commission was totally false. Totally false.

CARSON: You say you don't believe there's one?

GARRISON: I don't think there's one who's gone through the twenty-six volumes. No.

CARSON: Well ... I could give you a list of them.

GARRISON: Go ahead.

CARSON: Here are the people who came to the conclusion that no evidence of conspiracy existed. It was reached independently by the following persons: Dean Rusk, Secretary of State; Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense; Douglas Dillon, Secretary of the Treasury; J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI; John McCone, Director of the CIA; James Rowley, Chief of the Secret Service; and the Attorney General at that

time, Robert Kennedy.

The investigation was under the supervision of the Commission; it was conducted by approximately thirty attorneys, selected from twelve states, and includes professors of law, prosecutors from federal and state law enforcement agencies, and the former police commissioner of the City of New York.

In addition, a number of FBI and Secret Service agents conducted various phases of the investigation and submitted over 25,000 reports. Now, when I read what you say, are you asking the American public to believe that all these men are of such low intelligence and so easily duped that they do not know the facts?

GARRISON: I can tell you that none of them has read the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission or they wouldn't be taking that position. I don't pretend to know what motivates these distinguished men, but I can tell you that I am no longer impressed by the title of a man, and the fact that he's important in Washington doesn't mean a thing to me. Because I've seen what the members of the Warren Commission did.

For example, they concluded that Lee Oswald was the lone assassin, and the evidence is clear that Oswald never fired a shot. Never fired a shot! So you could give me a list of 1000 honorable men and that wouldn't change the facts. That doesn't make it so.

CARSON: Didn't the Warren Commission say, "Insofar as we were able to determine, Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone?" Or, "If there were other assassins, we were unable to find them?" There's a difference, isn't there?

GARRISON: The difference is kind of marginal. I'd say there is a saving clause when they add those words, but I think it's much more significant when you consider the major question by the summer of 1964 was: from how many directions was John F. Kennedy hit and which shot was the fatal shot?

And where was he hit. Now eighteen colored pictures were taken of the autopsy. And twelve black and white. And not a single member of the Warren Commission looked at them. Not one of them looked at them! And surely the reason for that must be that they knew what they would see.

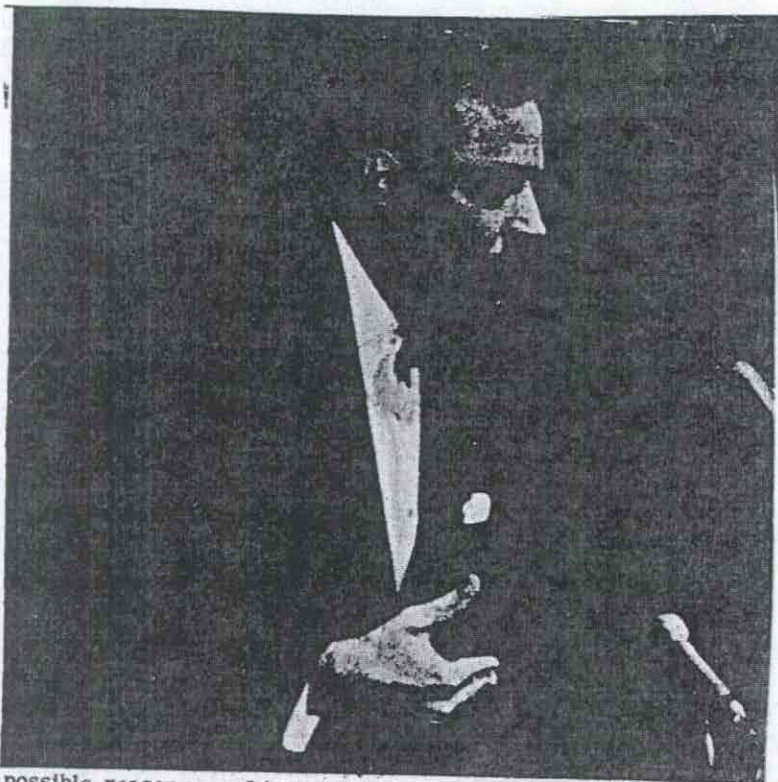
Not a single member looked at them! So consequently, right now — today — these men have not looked at the evidence which shows that the President of the United States was killed by a shot in the front. On the other hand, there is evidence available to the

people of this country, if we can just get it presented to them, that shows that the President was killed from the front—and that is the Zapruder film.

The Zapruder film was taken on the twenty-second of November. It shows the assassination. And it shows that John Kennedy was hit from the front with such force that he was nearly blasted out of the back of the car. Yet, it's four years since the assassination and no one here has seen the Zapruder film, nobody in the country listening to us has seen the Zapruder film. And they probably never will. And the reason they probably never will is because when you look at the Zapruder film, you know without any question that the President was hit from the front.

The question is, if all these honorable men were telling the truth, and if they really have looked into it, why is it that NBC, for example can't show the Zapruder film. NBC would love to show it. What difference does it matter, Johnny, how many honorable men are involved, when the critical evidence is continually being concealed from the people. They can't see the evidence.

CARSON: That's a big statement, isn't it, that the evidence is being concealed from the public. I have to say, before we go on that I find your statement that all of these people whose names I have mentioned, high government officials, are trying to hide knowledge of a conspiracy in the death of the president ... I don't see for what



possible reason . . . I just can't understand how you think that these men could get away with this . . . for what reason they would do it . . . that just doesn't make sense to me.

GARRISON: Let me answer your question by first giving you a list of dozens and dozens of files which are secret until the year 2039. Before my eight-year-old boy can look at these files, some of them having titles: Lee Harvey Oswald's Access to the U-2 ; the CIA File on Lee Harvey Oswald; The CIA file on Jack Ruby . . . before my boy can look at these, he will be over seventy years old. Now all I can say is, there are over four long pages here, and they are secret. Now if there's nothing wrong they certainly can open them up. But I can't get into their brains, Johnny, and tell you why they did it.

CARSON: . . . do you . . . expect the commission to defend itself, when these findings were accepted, by all parties concerned, and by the then Attorney General of the United States, Robert Kennedy? I find it hard to believe that a conspiracy could exist. The Warren Commission could find no link to Oswald and the CIA, to Oswald and the Secret Service, to Oswald and the FBI. Why do you insist, in the face of that evidence, that there was?

GARRISON: Of what evidence? There was never an investigation. First of all, let's take the Warren Commission. I'm not at all impressed by the fact that they

could not find evidence of a conspiracy. After going through their inquiry I doubt they could find a streetcar if they had a transfer in their hand and it was pointed out to them. (Laughter.)

I think they knew in the beginning they were going to reach the conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin, because he was dead, and because the Central Intelligence Agency was deeply involved in the assassination.

Was their action fraudulent? Yes! Is this unusual for people of such stature? Yes. But the fact remains that they did it.

CARSON: Now wait a minute. You say "fact" again—as if it is a fact. You keep saying "we know," and "the fact is," but that's not a fact, is it? What makes it a fact? Because you say so?

GARRISON: No. Not because I say so, but because the evidence indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald did not fire a shot. Will you concede that the Commission concluded that Oswald shot the President from the Book Depository Building?

CARSON: I will.

GARRISON: All right. Now let's look at the facts. The facts are that they couldn't find a witness out of the hundreds and hundreds of people in the area to say Oswald was at that window, until Lee Oswald was dead. And finally, one man who initially had said that it was not Oswald at the window, fi-

nally agreed to say that is was. No one else out of the hundreds saw him there.

CARSON: I'll have to take issue with you. Other people did see people in the window, a man in

the window, and identified the man's characteristics, his height, his clothing.

GARRISON: No, that's not correct. If you're talking about Rowan, he said the man in the window had a yellow shirt, and he had another man, a very dark man with him. The first part of his statement does not point to Oswald, because Oswald had a dark maroon shirt on. And further, it points away from the lone assassin. No one else other than Brennan indicated that he saw Oswald in the window. And Brennan himself said it was not Lee Harvey Oswald, at first.

CARSON: Well, he described the man. And a broadcast was put out for a man of that description.

GARRISON: And when he was shown Oswald's picture, he said it was not Lee Oswald. That was his first position. Can you name anybody else who saw Oswald in the window?

CARSON: I would have to take out the report. Yes, there were other people who saw a man up there and gave a description and that was why Oswald was picked up.

GARRISON: If you read the statement made by Otis V. Campbell, who was vice president of the book depository, you will read that after the assassination he went inside the book depository and saw Oswald on the first floor. If you read the statements of Officers Marion Baker and Roy Truley, you will read that they came running in, shortly after Campbell went in, and running up on the roof they saw Oswald on the second floor.

If you look at the fingerprint results, for the rifle, you will find that Oswald's fingerprints were not on the rifle. The palm print was not confirmed by the federal government either. That was just an announcement by the Dallas Police. You will also find that no test was ever made to find out if the rifle was fired. You will also find that a young lady named Vicki Adams, if you look in Volume 12, was on her way down from the fourth floor, during the time Oswald was supposed to have de-

scended, and no one passed her at all.

CARSON: Jim, here's what you're doing ... aren't you taking inconsistencies in testimony during the emotion of the time and using that to taint everything else that is very well explained?

GARRISON: We have located many people, with no trouble at all, who heard the shots coming from the area of the grassy knoll. Practically none of these people were called by the Warren Commission. On the other hand they merely presented one person, Mr. Brennan, who initially insisted that he couldn't identify Oswald. I'm simply saying that, whether they were emotionally affected or not, they should have called in some of the others, so they could find out what happened.

For example, among the many people who heard shots coming from the west of the book depository were (he recited over a dozen names). Practically all these people were ignored by the Warren Commission ... because they didn't want to hear a thing that did not incriminate Lee Oswald.

CARSON: That does not change the overwhelming evidence in any way ... the overwhelming major revelations of the case.

GARRISON: There is no "overwhelming evidence" that Oswald

shot from the book depository. The only available evidence indicates he did not. Furthermore, of all major conclusions the Warren Commission reached, the only true one is that Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby. And they had to say that because everybody in the country saw it. (Laughter.)

CARSON: In your OPINION, it's the only conclusion ...

GARRISON: Having gone through all twenty-six volumes, Johnny, I can say it is not possible for a reasonable man to conclude that the Warren Commission was right.

CARSON: Doesn't it have to be one amazing conspiracy, Mr. Garrison? ... doesn't this have to involve the CIA, elements of the Dallas Police force, the doctors at Parkland, the doctors at Bethesda? Members of the Warren Commission? The district attorney? Doesn't it have to involve all these people?

GARRISON: No. And get this clear once and for all. The doctors at Parkland Hospital found, concluded, that the shots came from

the front. To the last man! Dr. Ferry, Dr. McClellan ...

CARSON: Why did they come to that conclusion?

GARRISON: Because they looked at the body of the President.

CARSON: But they didn't turn it over, did they?

GARRISON: If there were shots from the front what difference does it make if there were shots from the back too? If Oswald was behind the President, he can't produce shots from the front.

CARSON: In the confusion of the autopsy ... but all the doctors agreed at Bethesda, in the final autopsy, that the shots came from above and behind the President.

GARRISON: This is not the conclusion of all the doctors. If you will look at Commission exhibit No. 392 you will see the cause of death written down at 4:45 on the afternoon of the assassination, by Dr. McClellan. He said the cause of death was a gunshot wound of the left temple.

CARSON: But that wasn't the final

autopsy ... that was done very quickly. Later, it was done correctly ...

GARRISON: When you talk about an autopsy done correctly, I take it you are talking about Commander Hume's autopsy.

CARSON: I'm talking about the autopsy at Bethesda.

GARRISON: Yes! Bethesda. This is certainly the first autopsy in history in which the doctor performing the autopsy found it necessary to burn his notes afterwards. Now I don't know what he did to cause him to burn his notes, but I can't view that as a correct autopsy.

CARSON: Is that a fact?

GARRISON: Of course it is. It's admitted in the Warren Report. (At this point, Garrison produced the affidavit of a woman who swore that the FBI had falsified and altered her testimony as published in the Warren Report, and forged her name to it. She said she had seen a truck from which a man with a rifle got out, just before the assassination, and that Jack Ruby was driving the truck.)

CARSON: Well, for what possible reason would they change it?

GARRISON: I think you'd have to talk to the sheriff's office, and also to the FBI.

CARSON: Isn't her statement one

of sixty-odd statements by people who also saw people carrying guns?

GARRISON: I don't know about that, but let's not get away from the point.

CARSON: No, but let's put it in context.

GARRISON: Put it in any context, but the point is, this lady saw Jack Ruby driving a truck.

CARSON: She SAYS she did.

GARRISON: She says she did.

CARSON: That doesn't make it a fact, does it? What time did this take place?

GARRISON: About an hour before the assassination.

CARSON: But at that time, Ruby was in the Dallas Times.

GARRISON: How do you know? How long was he there?

CARSON: He was there between eleven and eleven-thirty placing an ad for a master of ceremonies for his club.

GARRISON: Aren't you aware that there was a space, a gap of twenty minutes, and they don't know where he was?

CARSON: And you're gonna put him in a truck.

GARRISON: I'm not going to put him anywhere. But the point is, she was there.

CARSON: Does that not implicate the Dallas Police?

GARRISON: Perhaps you'd like pictures better.

CARSON: Doesn't that implicate the Dallas Police?

GARRISON: They're implicated! How do you think they did it!

CARSON: How do you know? Have you taken anybody to court. How can you accuse the Dallas Police of being involved?

GARRISON: All right. Just one question at a time. You gave me

three. Let me just make this one point. You say we haven't taken anybody to court. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king. Nobody else has charged anybody. We've made three charges. One man's been convicted; we're trying to get the other man to trial, and they keep postponing the case for six months. And the third man is fighting extradition.

We're going as fast as we can with five men. Remember, it took 6000 men to do nothing. We're moving with five. If it's a little bit slow, I apologize. (Laughter)

and applause.)

CARSON: You mentioned in your Playboy article, "If it takes me thirty years, I'm going to bring these men to justice." It doesn't sound like you've got a very strong case. Can this go on forever? When is somebody going to get this into court and either prove it or not prove it?

GARRISON: We set the case for trial last Fall and the defendant asked for a postponement. We're trying to get it to trial. (Garrison read an affidavit of a former FBI man stating that the FBI was informed days before the assassination that it would take place on the date it occurred.)

CARSON: But is that a fact?

GARRISON: It appears to me as fact, but if you want to reject it, you can. But let me show you some pictures. And if you want to reject these, go ahead.

At Dealey Plaza there were ten men arrested. This has been kept secret for more than four years. Here are the pictures of five of them being arrested. They've never been shown before.

Several of these men being arrested have been connected by our office to the CIA of the United States government. The probability is that this is why Officer Tippitt was killed—this is speculation. Positively. And I want to identify it as that. But the probability appears to be that the killing of Tippitt was the diversion which allowed them to free the ten men. But why aren't they mentioned?

CARSON: Who's suppressing all this information, on whose orders?

GARRISON: I'll tell you who, the federal administration is suppressing it because they know that the Central Intelligence Agency ...

CARSON: On whose orders?

GARRISON: On the orders of the President of the United States! The executive order which forbids everyone from looking at this evidence until September of the year 2039, was issued by the President of the United States. Does that answer your question? He's suppressing it.

CARSON: For what possible reason?

GARRISON: Why don't you ask him, John. (Laughter.)

CARSON: I think he would answer, "Because Mr. Garrison has come

up with no credible evidence to support his theories."

GARRISON: I am not allowed as an attorney to come up with evidence until the case comes to trial. Why don't they just let me fall on my face.

CARSON: Are you willing to say tonight that when your trial comes up, you will secure a conviction?

GARRISON: I cannot make a statement that will reflect on Mr. Shaw. But I am trying to tell you there is no question that an element of the Central Intelligence Agency killed John Kennedy, and the present administration is concealing the facts. There is no question about it at all.

CARSON: That is your opinion.

GARRISON: No, it is not. I know it. And if you will just wait you will see that history will support this as fact.

CARSON: I don't know where to go on this. We could go with this for hours and hours ... and I have to say, as a layman, I am still quite confused. I don't understand; you say it will come to trial eventually, but it could be years, could it not?

GARRISON: Not as far as we're concerned. We're pushing for trial now. There won't be any continuances asked for by my office.

CARSON: You are asking us to believe that a team of seven gunmen carried this out with precision, firing from various points that day in Dallas, which was a remarkable feat in itself, disappeared into thin air with no witnesses who ever saw any of them, the gunmen or getaway vehicles, and a gigantic conspiracy, of which nobody yet seems to have proved anything—and you ask us to believe that. I find that a much larger fairy tale than to accept the findings of the Warren Report.

GARRISON: Let me first reply by saying these men did not disappear into thin air. A number of them were arrested, and I just showed you pictures of them being arrested. I presume you'd accept that as a fact. You can see the pictures.

CARSON: No, I don't accept that as a fact.

GARRISON: Let me sum it up by saying am I asking the people of America to believe this? I am doing more than that. I'm trying to tell the people of America that the honor of this country is at stake. And if we don't do something about this fraud we will not survive. There is no way to survive if we do not bring out the

ruth about how our President was killed four years ago. And the investigation by the Warren Commission wasn't even close.

It would seem that when they put Jim Garrison on the Carson Show they got considerably more than they bargained for. Instead of being eaten alive he undoubtedly influenced the thinking of millions of people. A lot of very naive truck drivers and salesmen and school teachers are now going around saying, "Hey, I'm beginning to wonder about that Warren Report."

This is not the way they planned it. As Maggie Field once said, "They have not spent four years covering this thing up just to have a Jim Garrison come along and tell the people the truth. And they have no intention of letting him get away with it."

In the past few months they have tried in just about every imaginable way to discredit Garrison. They have tried to bribe his witnesses, and then accused him of doing the same. The networks have devoted a great deal of programming to discrediting his investigation, and the major newspapers have even published stories that implied that he was insane.