

22 February 1969

Dr. Robert Forman
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Dear Bob,

Thanks for your letter. Quite true, what you say about The Times. The reticent and inconspicuous story on page 13 measures 4.5 inches and gave no hint of the importance of the ruling made by Judge Halleck; whereas five earlier stories on the autopsy photos and X-rays, which were favorable ~~to~~ the Warren Report rather than to the critics, got space ranging from 34 to 86 column inches and four of the five stories were on page 1.

I know little about the hearing on Friday the 14th except for some of the unbelievable statements made by the Government attorneys, as described by Cyril Wecht on a radio broadcast last night on one of the midnight talk-shows broadcast here. You are quite right in your analogy—that the operation was a success but the patient died. I would only add that it was a success in spite of Garrison, and no thanks to him; and that the press has made sure that apart from a handful of us who had some part in the hearing, no one is aware of the significance of the ruling, the nature of the testimony by you and Wecht, or the invalidation of the four-man panel's "verification" of the original autopsy findings.

But I do not agree with you that "whatever else may be said about Garrison, he has the possibility for bringing assassination evidence before the public within a legal framework which is of great value." On the contrary --he has placed the assassination evidence in tandem with a "case" against Clay Shaw, in the course of the New Orleans trial, which is so preposterous, so pathetic, and so mortifying as to nullify any positive impact. For almost two years, the pro-Garrison coterie has exhorted me and others to just wait for the trial, give him a chance to unveil his case in its full glory, suspend judgment, etc. Well, the prosecution has rested--and I doubt if any trial in the annals can boast a more scruffy, sordid, squirming set of prosecution witnesses---the postman who recognizes invented names, the police officer who is such a transparent liar that even Haggerty insisted on branding him before the whole world as such, the assistant D.A. who "burned his notes" in a fashion no less compromising than Dr. Humes burned his, the recanting and re-recanting Russo, the ex-addict and jailbird with his identifications four years after the fact, and the accountant hypnotized, tortured and robbed of his virility by the Communists and the Pinkertons! There could hardly be a greater disservice to the critics' long effort than to link the authentic assassination

Source - Robert Forman