

14 February 1968

Mr. Edward Jay Epstein
295 Harvard Street
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Ed,

Aaron Asher was good enough to send the ms. over by messenger on Monday and I have now done a "first reading," rather hastily. I have a few minor comments, which are enclosed separately.

The article seems to me an unanswerable expose of Garrison, perhaps the more powerful for its understated, clinical tone. The chicanery and demagoguery which characterize the man are shown with clarity and force. You have succeeded also in converting the bewildering agglomeration of contrived events into a coherent story.

The only questions I would raise relate to omissions from the article rather than its contents. It may create the impression that there are no legitimate grounds for criticism of the CIA, since Garrison's lurid charges against the Agency are transparently improvised and cynical, when in fact the CIA has been revealed--in contexts other than the assassination--to be a dangerous influence on foreign policy and domestic institutions. Indeed, its vulnerability to legitimate attack has probably encouraged Garrison in his deranged and bold accusations.

More serious is the omission of the very compelling argument which you yourself have made in conversation: that the lunatic New Orleans investigation of the assassination increases the urgency of setting into motion a responsible, professional investigation in which the rights of the individual will be scrupulously respected and the facts elucidated and evaluated with uncompromising impartiality, divorced from any political pressures. The article as it now stands may encourage the impression, in the casual reader, that the Warren Report is probably all right and that all criticism of the Commission is Garrison-like and to be dismissed as more of the same crack-pottery.

I am looking forward to the weekend, when I hope to have time for a more careful and leisurely re-reading, after which I will probably write again.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
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