

SYLVIA

April 17, 1971

Last night was pure theatre of the absurd. Two days ago Lillian Castellano called to say that she had two tickets for us to the TV taping of the Steve Allen Show - guests were to be Jim Garrison and Mort Sahl.

SHOW WILL BE ON T.V. IN 4 OR 5 WEEKS

Well, I didn't have the heart to tell Lillian that I would rather take in a rodeo than a Sahl/Garrison Show. We went.

Jim was great -- he was promoting his book -- I suppose this is part of his duty as D.A. because he brought along Moo Shambria from his office.

Jim told about the foreign policy switch on November 24, 1963, about shots coming from the grassy knoll, about Oswald being a CIA agent along with Jack Ruby. He told about David Ferry driving all the way to Texas to go ice skating on November 22nd - drove through a bad storm - didn't have a good explanation for this so Jim had him arrested and turned him over to the FBI. Jim said the FBI took his statement then said they weren't interested in Ferry.

Jim thought this was odd since, according to Jim, Ferry had associated with Oswald in the summer of 1963 in New Orleans.

Steve Allen had Robert K. Dornan on to rebut Jim and Sahl and they all got into an interesting discussions that were long on wind and short on information.

Oh yes, I forgot to mention the commotion at the beginning of the show. There was much running about and yelling that was out of our view -- we found out later that a process server had just served papers on Mort Sahl and Sahl had hauled off and punched the man. This man was serving papers prepared by Gene Bradley's lawyer and Sahl blew up and started acting crazy.

Sahl came on the show mad as hell and proceeded to read parts of the legal document to Steve Allen -- in general he was ridiculing Bradley. Some time earlier Sahl had called Bradley a CIA agent at a local college and this got Bradley up-tight. Garrison, before this, had told the ~~xxx~~ world in 72 point type that Bradley had in some unspecified manner been responsible in some way for the death of our President.

Bradley didn't like that charge either since it cost him a job he was about to get and most of his friends started avoiding him like he was a leper. After that people started phoning him up at all hours saying "you assassin!" or "you communist" or "you fascist" or "we'll get you you Nazi" and on and on night after night.

If I had been Bradley I think I would have ~~blown~~ blown my head off -- you should hear him tell the story of the things that have happened to him as a result of Boxley and Turner convincing Garrison that he was part of the plot to kill Kennedy.

It is unbelievable what some people do and say when a man like Garrison makes a charge like this. Anyway, that's another story.

Sahl was in great shape -- he asked Jim to tell the audience about Commander Humes testimony in New Orleans. Jim then described this without correcting Sahl so everyone assumed it was Humes instead of Finck.

Jim claimed he had read the entire 26 volumes -- said it was more a physical than an intellectual exercise. The 26 volumes were more of a domestic intelligence accomplishment, he said, and there wasn't much of value in them.

Generally Jim came off as a man who did not have a firm grasp of the facts in this case -- he said Dr. McClelland signed the death certificate, for instance.

On top of this, Jim seemed to me to be in very said shape physically - his voice had a quiver, his hands trembled and he seemed to be in pain - probably his back. He was both outrageous and pathetic. Some moments I felt sorry and the next ~~xxx~~ digusted at him remarks.

After the show Lillian had him meet us, whereupon my roommate (MARLYNN) astonished everyone within earshot by thanking Jim for "shaking the film loose for us - as we have been spending a great deal of time studying it."

Jim looked surprised and mumbled something about, "Well, however it got out, I'm glad you have a copy."

I said, "Nice to meet youx Mr. Garrison," and he acknowledged me by remembering our correspondence. (two letters)

Jim does have a keen grasp of some things in the case. He mentioned that the flight of AFW from Dallas was not so much a "take off" as it was a "get away." Also, that LBJ had speculated at Parkland that this might be part of a world wide plot -- then shortly after this, after he was sworn in as the new President this plot seemed to vanish. That part was good.

As I say, I would rather have seen a rodeo -- no, I take that back -- this turned out to be quite exciting, what with a real live fight and Steve Allen and Terry Gibbs and his band to provide the music. Besides, Lillian got us free tickets, wo what's wrong with a night out once in a while? We stay home too much.

*Jed*

P.S. DID YOU GET YOUR DALLAS RADIO XEROXS' BACK OK? DO YOU HAVE MORE TO SEND? AS I REMEMBER THIS INCLUDED SOME 485 PAGES. SURE APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING THIS STUFF