

638 Royal Street,
New Orleans, La.
Feb 29 1968

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you for the copies of your correspondence with Lane. He came into the office today and told me he had received a "most unpleasant" letter from you, said he would show it to me, but did not, and then I found it in my mail box when I got home this evening.

I was glad to see that you were able to restrain yourself by confining your reasons for disbelieving in Garrison to his public statements.

I continue to be amazed that Lane skates so boldly on such thin ice. Recently he brought a copy of the University of Washington Daily (Seattle, Washington, Friday, Feb 16 1968) into the office which reported his speech to the students the day before. I quote from this paper:

When Clay Shaw comes to trial, which he feels will be no later than April, the American people will learn these facts, he says:

-The Central Intelligence Agency planned and carried out the assassination of President John Kennedy.

-Lee Harvey Oswald ~~planned and carried out~~ played no part in the assassination itself.

-Lee Harvey Oswald was a paid informant of the FBI, who had attended meetings with the conspirators and reported his findings to the FBI, said Lane.

-On Nov. 17, 1963 Lee Harvey Oswald informed the FBI that there would be an assassination attempt in Dallas.

There is more, but I can't be bothered to type it out. It would be an interesting project to collect copies of many such student newspapers, reporting Lane's speeches in recent months. At any rate, I don't see how Lane will ever be able to say that he didn't support Garrison. I should add that when Lane brought this paper into the office he said nothing about being misquoted.

Mark Lane is something of a frustrated movie director, I think, and he is currently collaborating with a Tulsa, Okla., TV station on a film about the Garrison probe. They seem to be operating on a minute budget, with Lane in charge. He approached me the other day and said he wanted me to be in it, which was OK, and they filmed a brief interview with me, but then Lane, knowing of my interest in Jazz said he wanted me to organise a jazz band for him to film, to add a bit of local color! I couldn't help thinking that these would be precisely the tactics of someone who wanted to smear Garrison (associating him with Mardi Gras, etc.) but Lane apparently has such poor judgement that he does not seem to realise this. Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm not going to co-operate with the jazz band.

March 3: I called Tink Thompson, and have been able to piece together a bit more of the story. About ten days ago Tink sent me some material re Mays. I passed it on to Garrison who wrote a note on it saying he didn't think much of it. He then must have forgotten that he had seen it (speculation.) Horsey then came down and spoke to Mark Lane, who apparently checked with Garrison, who must have said he had not seen the material Tink had sent to me, and thus suspected that I was withholding information from him. Something like this seems likely because on Friday Lane came into my office and asked me if I had any material on Mays. I immediately showed it to him and he made a remark to the effect: "Well obviously you did show it to Garrison because he wrote on it." A remark which, coming out of the blue as it did, should have alerted me. Thus there has been a misunderstanding which I ought to be able to clear up, were it not for the fact that there have been other indications that I am no longer trusted,

such as a noticeable decline in the number of memos, etc., coming across my desk! Oh well. I suppose it's my due. I think a good move would be to offer to resign, as the offer would almost certainly be turned down. How do you feel about my position, from a moral point of view? Maybe I should just quit, but I am so tempted by the unique opportunity to see and tell the whole story.

As a result of your call tonight I decided to take - and have already taken - precautionary steps with regard to the protection of...er... certain material...so don't worry too much, they'll have to kill me.

I sense that my real adversary down here is Mark Lane rather than Garrison. Assuredly, Lane would be happy to see me drop dead. He is, as I said earlier skating on such thin ice; since your call I am now beginning to think I am too.

I'll let you know if anything develops, meanwhile let me know your thoughts. And thank you for the alert, I appreciate it.

Best wishes,

Tom

*better treat this letter
as Top Secret.*