

23 April 1970

Mrs. Mary Ferrell
4406 Holland
Dallas 75219

Dear Mrs. Ferrell,

How very kind of you to have taken the trouble to type copies of those press stories! I am most grateful. I was extremely pleased to have your letter of the 18th (which arrived only today because of an error in the address). I have known of you and your work on the case for some time, through Tom Bethell and other people, and have often regretted that we were not in touch. It occurred to me that you might take issue with my views on the case, or find my work as distasteful as I find the work of some of our fellow-researchers, and so I did not try to contact you in case it should be unwelcome.

In any event, I am delighted that we are now in touch and that my supposition was unwarranted. Like you, I have been dismayed and even rocked by the actions of a number of the critics over the last few years--especially by several who were in the early years my closest colleagues and who became my closest and most valued personal friends. It all foundered and disintegrated on the issue of that incredible buffoon Garrison. Like you, I was elated and almost intoxicated with pure rejoicing when he first came upon the scene and literally danced for joy when he publicly denounced the Warren Report and said that there was no evidence that Oswald had shot anyone. I offered him any help I could give and began to funnel material to him. But almost at once, I began to experience little doubts and misgivings, and when he produced Perry Russo for the first time I saw a terrible black pit opening beneath all of us.

Unfortunately, I could not seem to "reach" many of the critics on this subject and quickly found myself almost universally disowned and isolated. The friendships were nullified, on the grounds that I had no right to criticize Garrison, or, that even if everything I said about him was right, I should still be silent. I will admit that I was deeply disillusioned and even bitter when the critics tried to silence me, which the Warren Commission and its cohorts had never tried to do.

I have been told of Garrison's great charm but I have not met him personally. After several telephone conversations, I reached the same conclusion as you did--that he was a mental case, at best, and also a ruthless and cheap demagogue. I have never found any cause to change my opinion; but neither have most of the pro-Garrison critics changed their allegiance, not even after that farcical trial.

The moral and intellectual frailty which has come to the surface on the issue of Garrison, on top of the issue of the WR itself, has caused me to question many things that I long took for granted. To some extent we all tend to think in terms of the "good guys" and the "bad guys," and this whole unhappy experience has at least jolted me out of that kind of stereotypical thinking. "Labels" mean little or nothing, and it is only the inherent decency and integrity of the individual in which trust can safely be invested.

I am assuming that you have read my book, Accessories After the Fact--if not, please correct me. My interest in the arraignment procedures in force in Dallas stem from the contradictions and discrepancies described in the chapter called "A Strange Arraignment," and from the fact that my conclusions were reinforced

a few months ago when I received from the Archives page 400 of CD 5, which states forthrightly: "No arraignment on the murder charges in connection with the death of President Kennedy was held inasmuch as such arraignment was not necessary in view of the previous charges filed against Oswald and for which he was arraigned" (e.g., the Tippit shooting). This was the official version on 11/25/63, when the later needs of the WR were not as yet glimpsed, obtained from the office of Captain Fritz by FBI agent Hosty. This has no bearing on guilt or innocence as such, but it does involve the probity of the investigators and the Warren Commission, which had CD 5 page 400 in its possession when it wrote a completely irreconcilable account of an arraignment which seems never to have taken place.

I very much hope that we will stay in touch, now that the ice is broken. Again, my warm thanks for writing and for the cooperation and help you offered, which I hope can be mutual.

Sincerely yours,



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