

24 April 1970

Mrs. Mary Ferrell
4406 Holland
Dallas 75219

Dear Mrs. Ferrell,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kindness and labor in copying the press stories enclosed with your letter of the 18th, which was delayed by a slight error in the address and arrived only today. I was extremely pleased to hear from you. I have known of you and your work on the case for some time, through Tom Bethell and others, and have often regretted that we were not in touch. If I hesitated to take the initiative, it was only because of the possibility that you disliked my work on the case (as I must admit I dislike the work of some of our fellow-critics). It is very gratifying to learn that my apprehension was unwarranted.


Your account of your experience with Garrison interest me greatly, since it parallels my own to a considerable extent. I too was everjoyed and exultant when I first learned of him, from Tom Bethell, and began to feed him material that might be useful, offering any and all help that I could give. But I soon began to be disquieted by little jarring incidents, and when he unveiled Perry Russe and then the preposterous "code" my suspicion became overwhelming. Like you, I concluded that Garrison was, at best, a mental case, and also ruthless, vindictive, and a cheap demagogue.

Unlike you, however, I alienated many of the critics by taking a sceptical and then a hostile position on Garrison, and even the farcical trial was not enough to sober their hysterical admiration and loyalty. It was painful to have cherished friendships and valued co-operation aborted by a transparent buffoon, but at least it jolted me out of a rather complacent view of "good guys" and "bad guys." The label of "critic of the WR" is no guarantee of integrity, unhappily, nor is any other simplistic label.

My interest in the arraignment process in Dallas stems from the facts set forth in my book Accessories, which I assume you have read, in the chapter called "A Strange Arraignment." A few months ago I obtained from the Archives page 400 of CD 5, which strengthens my conviction that Oswald was never arraigned in the JFK murder. That is precisely what the office of Capt. Fritz told Hesty on 11/25/63, before the contours of the official account could be anticipated. Perhaps I can elaborate further on this in a future letter or by telephone, if it seems worthwhile to pursue the matter further.

I hope that we will remain in touch and be helpful to each other. Again, my warm thanks for your welcome letter and the helpful enclosures.

Sincerely yours,


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