

414/235-6220



WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN 54901

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you for sending me the copy of the clipping from the New Orleans paper. It looks like that was the high point in our publicity. The New York Times took minimal notice of the Washington hearing--an inconspicuous notice on page 13. This was a major spread compared to what has been reported around here.

By the time your copy of the letter you wanted me to send on to Ken arrived, it seemed definite that the hearing would in fact take place and so I took the liberty of not forwarding it on.

The implication of the ruling Friday by Judge Halleck is profound. For the first time since the assassination there has been a formal judicial decision based on assassination evidence that shots were fired from more than one direction. Before the hearing Halleck had said that he would order the autopsy X rays and photos made available if it could be shown that shots had been fired from more than one direction. After hearing the testimony of Wecht and myself he ordered the material released!!

This may be a case of the operation was a success but the patient died. Everyone in Washington expected that the government would appeal. The Washington Post Saturday even said that the government might simply refuse to comply with the court order regardless. If the government can stall until after the Garrison trial it will have passed a major threat. Whatever else may be said about Garrison, he has the possibility for bringing assassination evidence before the public within a legal framework which is of great value.

There were seven (count 'em, seven) government attorneys at the hearing opposing us. There are government attorneys in New Orleans doing everything they can to aid Shaw's case and oppose Garrison. And people wonder why there is a decline in respect for law and order. I think if Garrison were permitted to present real evidence, he would not need to use the tricks he is resorting to.

I am afraid that this is not a cheerful optimistic letter, but I don't know how else to make one the way things look at the present. My article and pictures were released to the press by Fensterwald at the end of January. The lack of response was monumental. They tell me that despite Fensterwald's distinguished background the Washington papers never mention him by name. He is referred to as "local counsel" or a "Garrison aid." A person could almost believe in a conspiracy of silence.

Best wishes.

*Bob Forman*