

Telephone call from Penn Jones, Friday 11:45 p.m. 7/28/67

The main reason for Penn's call was to tell me that it was another Larrie Schmidt who had died, not the one involved with Bernard Weissman...I said that I might have known it was a mistake, since it originated with Garrison...Penn said also that Lovelady was now at home (in Irving) and he had seen and talked with him...Lovelady has had a serious illness, involving major surgery of the rectum, after which he had had to return to the hospital...He showed Penn both the shirt in which he had been photographed by the FBI, and the shirt he had actually worn on 11/22/63...The latter shirt, Penn describes as red and black plaid with a blue (not yellow, per Jones Harris and Dick Sprague) stripe...Penn does not see how this can possibly be the shirt in the doorway.

After hearing that the death of Larrie Schmidt was a mistake, I said that I now wondered if Bogard's death was reliable information, since that too had originated with Garrison...Penn said that he had talked with the widow, Bogard was dead, she saw more in it than meets the eye...Penn said also that Shirley (Martin) had "quit on him," he didn't know why, perhaps because of her divorce and the resultant family problems...When I mentioned that I had received a reprint of the AP article, "The Lingering Shadow," from the Dallas Times-Herald, Penn said I was lucky, they were charging 35¢ a copy...

He said also that if I heard from one Ed Horsey of Kalamazoo, Michigan, I should listen to him...He was very interested in the case, "knows a lot," and is spending a lot of money...he has a theory involving international financial circles, not unlike the Lincoln Lawrence thesis...suggested that I put Horsey and Lawrence in touch with each other...

Toward the end of the conversation, we got into a quite sharp argument about Garrison...Penn asked incredulously, chuckling, "Do you expect Garrison to retract the cryptography publicly, just to satisfy you?" I replied, no, just to satisfy the requirements of honesty and integrity...Penn asked how I could dare to criticize Garrison, what did I know, I had never held public office...I pointed out that he had never asked what credentials I had for attacking the Warren Report, and that the very same credentials qualified me to dismiss Garrison as a fraud, a charlatan, and a menace to honest criticism...Penn said, you don't know what evidence he has, you don't even know any of his investigators...I reminded him that I knew Bethell (he derided this, saying that Tom is one of the lesser members of the staff) and that when Garrison had personally told me some of his "evidence" I had wondered if he was even rational or if he might be mentally unbalanced...We also exchanged the usual remarks about Bill Gurvich--Penn saying that he was never a key man, just a menial and messenger, while I insisted that before his defection Gurvich had been described to me by several returning critics including Bill Turner in the most glowing terms and specifically as the chief investigator for Garrison...Penn kept warning me that I would find myself standing alone (I said that I would stand alone cheerfully rather than allying myself with liars, fabricators of evidence, or charlatans)...Penn said that we must be working for different objectives, he was working to save the country...I said that I was not working just to put a new set of liars into power and that Garrison was in fact the greatest menace to the integrity and credibility of the critics...etc., etc., and the conversation ended tartly with Penn saying Good luck to you, and I saying, And to you...12:10 a.m.