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Dear Mr. Arnoni,

Your piece, "Garrison and Warren: Anything in Common", is based on factual error, faulty reasoning, is constructed as a piece of propoganda, and libels those you are careful not to name, of whom I presume that this time I am not one.

I haven't time for a lengthy, organized response, and I think the time would be wasted if I had it. I recognize Sylvia's inspiration, and much as I respect her and her work, I fear this time she has gotten herself emotionally involved. There is nothing wrong with emotion, nor is there on this subject. Sylvia, like you, assumes what is neither true nor probably true, seizes on a few isolated things she takes out of context (as you do) and weaves her unhappiness from it. I regret she feels as she does. There is no doubt in my mind of her complete sincerity and integrity. I cannot say that about this article.

I make a few comments only.

Garrison's "conclusions derived from no critical general view of the U.S. power structure..." false.

"...no social philosopher, no social critic..." I think it is fair to take these words literally and declared them false also.

I ignore your obvious literary devices and straw men. They are inappropriate in your publication. They are not honest. They build up, unfairly, to: "Days of waiting for the Big Disclosure grew into weeks and then months". This is plain crap. The place for revelation is in court. Garrison never made any public announcement of his case. He tried and for months succeeded in keeping it secret.

"The reliability of new witnesses was by no means better than that of the first ones." I am sure of an example he produced in any proceeding that he did not in the first. The absence of examples in your story is appropriate: there are none.

Did you expect Bishop Pake to be working for the CIA? Or angels talking of murder?

"...distressingly frequent accusations of attempts to influence or outright coerce witnesses..." Save for the blasted and false accusations of Aynesworth, of whom you should know enough to credit nothing he says on this subject, and those even more disreputable by NBC, what can you possibly have in mind with this fiction. In the case of Beauboeuf, he has voluntarily admitted to a reporter friend of mine that no effort was made to corrupt him, that all that was asked of him was the whole truth. Note that nothing has been said of this unfortunate young man by Garrison (only NBC, as with Sandra Moffet, made these hints). It is now unquestioned that the tape cited by NBC was edited. I was offered the John The Baptist Candler and story May 28, a month after I had finished my own book on this subject (now being printed by Perilous) by two good New Orleans reporters. I did not use it for the same reason they would not: Candler would not swear to it. He would not before the grand jury, would not before a judge, and was convicted of contempt. He refused to answer the simple question: did you tell the truth on NBC? After getting the conviction, Garrison's office moved for the setting aside of the sentence. I also know something of NBC and its function in this matter. They tried to plant bad information (and of the vilest sort) in the Garrison investigation, through me. Fortunately, with permission, I have a tape of some of it. I offered it to NBC, without response.

I am no defender of police methods. Thirty years ago I investigated and exposed them. Garrison, to my observation, has not exploited them. I know the policeman against whom the charge is made. He is no fool. Were he to have engaged in any such scheme, it is much more likely that he would have had other ends, like getting information for a search warrant. He did nothing unusual and have seen no evidence that he was exploited by the other side. The Candler story did not surprise me. I had warned these reporters by defense counsel, who at the same time acknowledged payment by the CIA and said it would be denied if the reporters printed it. As you should know, the CIA involvement is no longer secret.

I developed a witness of my own, a man who has been cut off every time he

What he wanted to tell Wesley Liebeler and what Liebeler did not want to hear is that an FBI agent regularly attended meetings of one of the right-wing Cuban groups, of which he was then a member. Oswald also had connections with these people. "He phoned to tell me when he would call back, so I could prepare to tape record him. On his way to the phone at the appointed time he was leedpiped. He phoned me from the hospital. This is the only attempted intimidation of him, but it should be enough. The second was after he agreed to testify before the grand jury, on my introduction of him to a member of Garrison's staff, an assistant DA.

What is doing the coercing? Which witnesses are being coerced? Perhaps you'd like to hear these tapes and those I also supplied Garrison, used in the Andrews trial in which Andrews told a reporter friend of mine that he would perjure himself because he wanted to live. Garrison is doing the intimidating.

Your paragraph about "flattery" and the "basking in the power" of all the critics except Sylvie is really disgraceful. It should require only rereading to make you ashamed of such slanders. The same is true of what follows, that nonsense of psychological benefactions, whatever you mean by that.

William Gurvich, save by self-appointment, was never "chief investigator". When I was first approached, January 1, I was told Louis L'vons was chief investigator and how to get in touch with him. His predecessor was Pershing Gervais. These men are not exactly the usual pattern of police investigators (aside from Gurvich, of whom I can speak). The first thing they asked of me was that I address the history course they were taking nights at Loyola.

Speaking of Gurvich, does it not strike you as unusual that he turns his coat only after conferences with Senator Robert Kennedy. Picture of Kennedy associating with peephole professionals! This alone is a tipoff that Gurvich was a palnt. And where are your polemics about his intervention into a legal proceeding? He publicly acknowledged he was in open and deliberate contempt of court in commenting on the case, particularly as he did. Do you think this sort of thing best to influence jurors. Or that any potential juror was not reached by his prejudicial statements? Society also has rights, including the right to a fair and unprejudiced trial before a jury of that character.

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Only your limited circulation and political angle puts you out of this class, for such writing denies an unbiased jury, just as much as in the Shepard case. The difference is between the rights of one and the rights of all.

Attributing "procrastination" to Garrison is a plain lie. You certainly cannot be even read the New Orleans papers. He has from the very first pressed for a speedy trial. It is the other side that is causing all the delays, with the cheapest legal devices. Just last month the judge (and remember Garrison's feuds with the judges went to the Supreme Court) excoriated the defense for its delaying tactics. Now they seek a delay of an additional six months. And you charge Garrison with procrastination. It may be normal and proper for the defense to use such tactics, but how do they compare with the use you make of them?

"Garrison's trust account is exhausted". Before trial, when he has satisfied a grand jury and a panel of judges that he has probable cause. Your exhaust easily, and prematurely.

"It is time for Mr. Garrison to prove himself...." To you, with your obvious prejudices, or to a judge and jury. He wants to get there but is denied that by the other side and is further impeded by such articles as yours, which is poisonous.

It is the cheapest kind of journalism to go into the digression that critic by "coincidence" have been sought out by those seeking to plant information in an effort to make it seem that this is what is involved in the Garrison case. I wrote a 180,000 word book on the subject, completed in early April and with an appendix of more than 30 pages of documents, once secret, before I had met or even spoken to Garrison. Your own ignorance is understandable and needs no justification. You are more than busy with your regular work. But how dare you write so without the most exhaustive kind of personal investigation. How dare you equate your own solid ignorance with knowledge, fact?

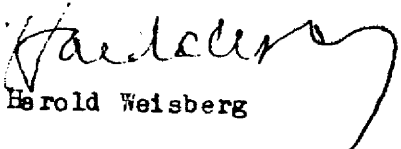
I write you because I presumed this was your purpose in sending me a copy of this issue, with this story marked. I have not gone into the fact of the case - for example, the unquestioned fact that David Ferrie was known to the FBI to have threatened to shoot the President - for I have the time and have put much of it in a book that almost any day now should be available to you (who will you accuse me of stealing this

book from any day (Parallax told me today they have the first bound copy).
I have been silent since your first slanders because I intend you no harm or bad
But I was
luck, /disappointed that you were not honest enough to apologize and, frankly, sur-
prized that you have since had your own boycott. I think your readers, with your
representations, are entitled to those disclosures I have made. Vince also made the
same false accusations at the same time. The difference between you is this: he at
least made a gesture and apologized, without insipidity. When I decided to go ahead
with a private printing of my first book, I knew it could be bankrupting. Since then
I have been aware that each new book presented me with a new potential disaster. It
has not been encouraging to find that those who profess similar beliefs have expressed
them with suppression.

You will eventually learn that from what the Commission had and didn't
use there is a prima facie case, that Oswald had connections with the anti-Castro
Cubans (who I have from the first believed framed him), that there was an intercepted
plan to assassinate the President in Miami, another in Dallas dating to early October
1963 (for what I believe good reasons I left this out of my New Orleans book but told
a major periodical about the existence of a tape recording of the threat and they now
have it), and many other things. You will learn of the involvements of the FBI agents
in New Orleans (how odd finding you their protector) and probably of CIA agents.

It is unfortunate that, for whatever purpose, you found it necessary to ally
yourself with those who I think are not normally your allies, including those working
with, if not for, the CIA. It is also unfortunate that no matter how weakly, you also
struck a blow against a free and fair trial, something we so much need on this subject.

Sincerely yours,


Harold Weisberg