

30 October 1967

Meagher files

Mr. Tom Bethell
Office of the District Attorney
2700 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70119

Dear Tom,

In response to your letter of October 25, 1967, I enclose some gleanings from my own files, which I have spot-checked rather than examined comprehensively. I find this issue of William Gurvich's functions really quite clear, in the written record as well as in my own recollections, and this is about all the time that I intend to give it. The purely technical question of his designated title on signed memoranda cannot nullify what was described--before the defection--by an ardent supporter of the district attorney as a "key" and "prime" role, and by others as the role of chief investigator, without qualification or subsequent requested correction. Really, I do not and will not accept the post-defection attempt to demote Gurvich retroactively to a menial role of messenger and photograph analyst, any more than I will accept other exercises designed to give history a cosmetic treatment, from whatever beautician.

Of course, if this rather transparent attempt had not been made in the first instance, no time would have had to be expended on refutation; and I trust that you will agree that those who do not have access to the files in the district attorney's office must rely on the published record and direct information from knowledgeable and disinterested persons.

Kind personal regards,



Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 St NYC NY 10014

March 2, 1967, New York Daily News, page 24, column 1, states:

"William Gurvich, chief investigator, said that Shaw..."

March 2, 1967, New York Times, page 24, column 3, states:

"No immediate charge was filed. William Gurvich, the district attorney's chief investigator, said Mr. Shaw..."

March 2, 1967, Boston Globe, page 1, column 1, states:

"Shaw's arrest was announced by Garrison's chief investigator, William Gurvich."

April 1967, Ramparts, page 8, "The Plot Thickens" by William Turner (column 3):

"The Gurvichs, quiet-spoken men in their mid-forties like Garrison, have been key confidants to Garrison, and prime movers of his investigative task force."

September 14, 1967, New York Review of Books, Richard Popkin in an article favorable to the New Orleans District Attorney, refers to William Gurvich as having been "a major investigator" in the Garrison investigation.

October 1967, Plot or Politics? by Rosemary James and Jack Wardlaw, page 149:

"William Gurvich...joined Garrison's staff at the outset of the investigation as his chief investigative aide..."

October 1967, Oswald in New Orleans by Harold Weisberg, foreword by Jim Garrison, page 371:

"The burglary actually took place, according to Garrison's chief aide, Private Investigator William Gurvich..."