

3 February 1969

My dear Mr. Joesten,

I do not wish to take excessive space in your newsletter but I must at least comment, for your personal perusal, on your reply to my dissenting remarks on the matter of William S. Walter, the man alleged to be a former FBI employee.

I was aware of Garrison's reference to the alleged TWX message during his 12/26/67 press conference, when he declined to provide any substantiation whatever for his claim. The question should certainly have arisen then as to the need to mention the so-called TWX message at all, since no supporting information could be given. Personally I would not accept as worthy of the smallest attention an allegation by District Attorney Henry Wade, or D.A. Arlen Specter, for which supporting data was withheld. Therefore, I do not accept such an unsupported allegation from any other district attorney.

I referred specifically to the television interview of 1/31/68 because it was on that occasion that "supporting information" was offered, of a nature which seemed clearly to demand consequential criticisms and questions. One of those questions was why Garrison publicly cited hearsay information from a witness who, at long last, required no extradition.

I feel quite entitled to conclude that Mr. Walter was not called before the grand jury, whose proceedings are far from "secret" as you will see from the enclosed list, gleaned from press cuttings for the one-year period April 1967 to April 1968. Since prominent publicity has been given regularly about those who appeared before the grand jury, and in some cases even about what they said or did not say in those "secret" proceedings, it is a logical inference that Mr. Walter was not summoned and did not give sworn testimony before the grand jury. You may be willing to invest faith in Garrison, with respect to Mr. Walter and other allegations. I am not. I do not allow myself the luxury of applying to those challenging the Warren Report a more liberal or loose standard than I apply to the Warren Commission or its apologists.

Also strictly for your personal and private perusal, and not for publication, I must tell you that my information, direct from those individuals most closely concerned in the proceedings before Judge Halleck, is that he has been exceedingly helpful and has leaned over backward to cooperate with them in their attempts to secure access to the autopsy photos and X-rays. I cannot confirm this of my own knowledge, but I pass this on to you as the opinion given to me by those acting on Garrison's behalf in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Not sent

Enclosure: List of press items
re New Orleans grand jury witnesses