

23 June 1967

Dear Philippe,

I cannot cheer you up, re: Garrison. One could perhaps say that he is "moving," but downward and evermore down. You will be aware already, when you receive this, that William Gurvich, Garrison's chief investigator, has gone to Robert Kennedy and told him that Garrison has no evidence and no "case." Gurvich has, of course, left the investigation (Garrison says, "six weeks ago," but my information is that he was still there and at work, until recently).

This inevitably will do great damage to legitimate criticism and set back our efforts immensely. I think that Garrison started out in good faith, but that he lost his head, became intoxicated with publicity, and then little by little put his scruples aside, so as not to let things die down, and by giving up his integrity inch by inch he ended with fabricated "evidence" and every characteristic of the complete liar and fraud. Even his own closest associates have been more and more worried and now Gurvich has "defected." Only the wildest stroke of luck could save Garrison's dignity and reputation now, if that. For the enormous confusion he has created, and for the harm he has done to the efforts of people more sober and more modest than he, and for the ruthlessness with which he stigmatized helpless individuals whom he has accused without evidence, it is impossible to forgive him.

It is difficult also to become reconciled to the readiness of some of the critics to believe, accept, condone—even to attack colleagues who had been at work on this case long before Garrison even began to question the Warren Report, and who have done important work. One was denounced as a "red-baiter" and a "fascist" for his crime of scepticism and scoffing at Garrison; I myself was told bitterly that I was "joining the pack that are out to destroy him." This was said after it was clear beyond quibble that Garrison intended to maintain as "evidence" a claim that he had "deciphered" phone numbers which he had already conceded was a mistaken claim. So that what was shameful when it was done by the Warren Commission became admirable when it was done by Garrison; those who were "heroes" for repudiating the Commission and its lies became villains and traitors for repudiating Garrison's lies; and the respect and loyal friendship that joined the critics together, in what had seemed a common morality and courage, over two long years or more—these lie in ruins, after only three months of Garrison.

You are better preoccupied, as you indicate, with the Middle East and Vietnam; for this case has now become a source of despair and disgust, in which liars and accessories to lies and injustice vie with each other in vowing their fidelity to the truth and the seeking of truth. NBC, with a hatchet in its dirty hands, set out last Monday to destroy Garrison, using such lackeys as Walter Sheridan (whose activities in the Hoffa case stink to high heaven), with the same murderous zeal they would have displayed even if Garrison was above reproach. They are not one iota better than Garrison, their methods are no less sordid and cynical. I am told that no transcript is available; but if they got a request on the letterhead of France Soir, they might be more accomodating. The same will be true of the CBS four-hour affair. As for a copy of The Scavengers, I would like to oblige you, but I would have to make a search of the bookshops and, to be frank, the thought of buying such a rotten piece of libelous excrement makes me shudder. Perhaps you could write for a review copy to Dell Books, 750 Fifth Avenue, NYC 10019—I suspect that they will be only too glad to send one, it has had such little notice here.

I'll write again, perhaps after the CBS epic, or in any case when there is something worth writing about. All the best,