

2/29/68

Dear Sylvia,

Enclosed find a copy of this week's L.A. Free Press, which went on sale tonight. The issue contains a long interview with Roger Craig (and Penn Jones). Both have been "on tour", all over town this week.

Trying to follow them around, and tape the proper radio shows they've been on, has thrown my whole week out of kilter; one night, they were on a talk program until 3:30.

Craig has made several points, in his various appearances:

- 1) The "found rifle" was not fired
- 2) the "found" shells were planted
- 3) A mauser was definitely found at the depository
- 4) Buddy Walthers found a 45 bullet in Dealey Plaza
- 5) Jack Ruby had guns and munitions in a storehouse behind his apartment
- 6) Craig printed testimony was changed, in many important details, from what he testified to originally
- 7) Large quantities of money were found on Jack Ruby's person, and in the trunk of his car, when he was arrested
- 8) Comments about Will Fritz denials, re having seen Craig.
- 9) How Craig came to identify Bradley

The above 9 points, and I have probably missed a few, came out of Craig on various different talk-in shows, and appearances at UCLA.

The way Craig would phrase much of the above left considerable doubt in my own mind as to how much of this was first hand knowledge. I tried to get an interview with him, through Penn, but was unable to.

So, next best thing, I showed up personally at the UCLA appearances and personally asked questions from the audience. ~~XX~~ A friend of mine would handle one topic, and I another. I have lots of tape, only some of which is relevant. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Regarding the above points, here is what I find:

Point 1 He has direct, first hand knowledge, from a source in the Dallas P.D. who said certain tests were run on that rifle, and that it had not been fired. When I tried, from the audience, to ask Craig what type of lab test he was referring to, Penn jumped all over me, as if I had committed some type of sin in doubting Craig. All I wanted was further information.

Point 2 Direct first hand knowledge; personal observations concerning cartridge positions, ejection pattern, lack of powder marks, other technical detail.

Point 3 This seems overstated; I think he is simply adopting Garrison's theory based on an interpretation of the DCA film

point 4 Turns out Craig is reporting what a newspaper reporter said Buddy Walthers said. Highly overstated.

point 5 a "confidential source", again. No detail. Very bad.

point 6 Based entirely on his own present recollection of what he remembers having told the Warren Commission

point 7 Same as point five.

point 8 Interesting. Apparently Fritz knows Craig for six years. Would definitely recognize him. Implies Fritz is deliberately lying.

point 9 Craig appears entirely honest, but I just can't swallow this feat of ex-post-facto recollection. I'm sure he is sincere, though.

(This is in the Free Press).

I feel Penn Jones is quite liberal with his interpretation of the record, and perhaps I am being too mild.

First of all----Ruby is characterized as "running ~~XX~~ a whore house in Dallas".

Second----the number of "deaths". He now talks of Dean Andrews comments about there being 60, and Loran Hall's "90".

There's a complete blurring, when Penn speaks, of the distinction between what is hypothesis, and what is fact.

One valuable function that is being served is that he is definitely articulating, to highly emotional and receptive audiences, what a lot of them are thinking and apparently want to hear.

But Everything is uncritically accepted; no decent cross examination.

Penn is ~~practically~~ stating that Johnson was involved, and people in the Dallas Police department; he is quite explicit about the latter.

Far too much of this is stated without any qualifications.

Example of one particularly <sup>n</sup> annoying misstatement. In Lane's book, I think, they mentioned that Oswald was given artificial respiration before being taken from the jail to Parkland.

I spent quite a bit of time looking into that this past summer. I finally located somewhere, what I think are the true facts. The young medical student on duty (whose name I found) only put a stethoscope to the chest of the wounded Oswald. A cop nearby, however, put in his report that Oswald was "getting artificial respiration"

But tonight, I heard a packed ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ room at UCLA dorm told: "And they pumped the blood right out of him while he ~~lay~~ lying there on the floor, when they gave him artificial respiration".

Craig is becoming more and more of a buff with each appearance. ~~As~~ this becomes more pronounced, its going to hurt his standing as a "witness".

This morning, I addressed a packed high school auditorium, with my twin-screen slide presentation. It was most successful. I haven't given a talk since ~~X~~ last spring.

The sponsoring group was just a group of interested high school kids who I met recently. I showed them one of my more recent phone bills (this month's is \$343). So I got some money, to help with expenses, and they learned a lot.

I have a lot that I would like to tell you about the entire Kerry Thornley affair. I am preparing some materials, and letters, and I would like to send you "copy ~~XX~~ sents". If Kerry really does come to trial, Garrison will have committed "PE 8 1951", only this time in court. This will be a whopper, and this whole affair with Thornley, knowing as much as I do about it, is very revealing about Garrison and the way he operates.

Best regards,

David

*David*