

5 March 1968

Mr. David Lifton
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Los Angeles 90049

Dear David,

Thank you for sending me the L.A. Free Press with the interview of Roger Craig. Incidentally, I seem to have been placed on the subscription list for this publication, although I did not apply for a subscription-- in any case, I have been receiving copies every week. I mention this only so that you will not put yourself to unnecessary expense.

I do appreciate your evaluation of Craig 's assorted claims and charges. He has become a star performer in the Garrison vaudeville and may be expected to escalate his recollections even more. It goes without saying that one must regard with utmost scepticism the epidemic of unsupported assertions and allegations by various "witnesses" who managed to maintain silence for almost five years; or, as in the case of Craig, to suddenly supplement their original stories or claim alteration of their testimony or even forgery of their signatures on affidavits a la Mercer.

The Commission stands condemned by so many clear and demonstrable violences to truth and decorum that these belated and sensational charges, by Mercer, Craig, etc., unverified by any independent or objective evidence, can only create an illusion of persecution of an eminent body of men by sordid and publicity-hungry characters, while the indisputable fraud which the Commission indeed committed is increasingly obscured. It is a great pity that well-intentioned men like Penn Jones have allowed themselves to become intoxicated and increasingly identified with this carnival, lapsying completely from any standard of responsibility in public statements and losing all sense of distinction between hypothesis, theory, evidence, and proven fact.

Some time ago someone, perhaps Garrison, alleged that Oswald was given artificial respiration and at that time I rechecked Bieberdorf's testimony and exhibits and concluded it was mere hogwash, and not necessarily inadvertent. It is interesting that Garrison, for all his talk of Oswald's innocence, has tried consistently to incriminate him as a conspirator before and after the fact and has also managed to prosecute two of the very few Commission witnesses who had the decency and courage to reject or at least to demonstrate doubt about Oswald's guilt--Andrews and now Thornley. I would certainly be interested in any information you have on the Kerry Thornley affair. From what I do know about it, mainly from the press, it is another clear case of railroading a man against whom there is not one iota of credible evidence whatsoever. It seems long overdue for the Garrison devotees to come to grips with reality but I suppose they will merely become more committed than ever to this despicable charlatan.

With thanks and best regards,

Sincerely yours,