

15 February 1969

Dear David,

Be assured that I have not mentioned, and will not mention, your work to anyone. Until I do see and evaluate it for myself, I can only hold any judgment in abeyance. The same is true for Harold, who has been declaring fantastic and conclusive finds in his as-yet unpublished book or books. I take nothing for granted until I see the material and, until then, there is really nothing to tell anyhow. So don't worry on that score.

As to the second item in your letter of the 12th: events have outstripped us and you will know long before this reply reaches you the outcome of yesterday's hearing and Wecht's testimony. I am told that he was simply magnificent and utterly authoritative, and demolished the federal lawyers during cross-examination. We will have to see what happens next. I don't have the ghost of any idea as to what caused the turnaround. I did send Vince a copy of my letter to Weisberg (who was infuriated both by the contents of the letter and by my sending of copies, and sent me the familiar and tiresome tirade, lecturing me and urging me not to devote all my energies to "hating Garrison"); but I doubt that it had any influence on the reversal or re-reversal...or is it re-re-reversal?

Dick Sprague called me last night, as Fensterwald had asked him to do, to tell me the happy outcome of the hearing and the Wecht testimony earlier that day in Washington. It was my first contact with Sprague in about a year. He told me, during our conversation, that he had spent some hours at Garrison's home the week that the Shaw trial opened. During their conversation, Garrison had asked Sprague what I now thought about him. Sprague replied that he did not know, as he had not been in touch with me for a very long time. Whereupon, Sprague reports, Garrison said that there is no one whose opinion he values more than mine. Heaven help him, in that case, I told Sprague, since my opinion of him is the same as it has been for the last two years and if anything even more contemptuous.

Upon thinking about Garrison's remark, as reported by Sprague, late last night, I concluded that it was nothing but a come-on and a gimmick, designed to soften me up a little even if it did not completely "convert" me to the cause. It is probably just by such flattering remarks that Garrison managed to enlist his loyal coterie of WR critics. If he really set such store on my opinion, he would be out committing hari-kari right now.

I too have heard from someone, I don't remember who (probably Weisberg), that Ray Marcus would be a witness. I am distressed but not surprised at Letha's reaction to the Speisel fiasco--the other pro-Garrisonites have all been preoccupied not with the content of Speisel's testimony or his clearly paranoid history but only with who it was that tipped off the defense lawyers so that they were prepared with all that damaging and mortifying information. The plain fact is that nobody "planted" this kook on Garrison: quite the contrary. His own staff, to a man, urgently advised against using this creep but G., for his own unfathomable reasons, overruled them.

Only last night I brought up the hilarious passage of testimony in which Speisel said "Not very recently" or words to that effect, which just tickled me inordinately. What I did not read in the papers but was told to me, by Sauvage (who has all kinds of wire service), is that Speisel in his testimony blamed the "communist conspiracy" for his sexual impotence. When I hear of the ways in which the Garrison clique manage to justify even Speisel, so that G. somehow emerges not only as innocent but as a martyr to someone else's evil, I begin to realize that we can never win, and G. can never lose--no matter how gross, clumsy, and unashamed his chicanery. By the way, it is interesting to see the indictment of Gremillion, the State Attorney-General--I have a vague recollection that Garrison was mixed up in that little pécadillo, too. Don't ever dare repeat this, but Jones suggested that if G. had shared in that larceny and used the proceeds for his "probe" one would have to admire him for his courage!!! See what I mean about the impossibility of G. losing?
(over)

I may have written you already about this but if not, I was interested to discover from the Condon Report that our old friend and Nobel Laureate Luis Alvarez not only gave an assist to CBS in 1967 but was already helping the government back in 1953, when he served on the secret Robertson Panel and participated in the "debunking" of criticism of the Air Force and of UFOs by that group. What really did surprise me was to discover only yesterday that Paul Hoch works for Alvarez! From all indications, Alvarez is a despicable human being, however great a physicist he may be. Did you know that Paul works for him???

You know, I really liked Letha very very warmly, and in a way I still do, realizing that wives usually have to concur with their husbands if they want to stay happily married, and that Letha has always relied on Ray rather than done independent work on the case. But even taking all those factors into account, I am sad that she can accept and echo this kind of shit about Speisel being slipped on Garrison. She always seemed so fair, so willing to be logical, such a really good person. For that matter, I also felt very warmly toward Ray, although his fits of stubbornness were infuriating at times. For the life of me, I cannot cannot cannot understand how they can wallow in such a sewer and insist that it is as fragrant as Chanel No. 5.

Tom Stamm shares our views on Garrison, as you know, and for that reason had drifted out of touch with Vince. However, he did see him last weekend in Philadelphia, and Vince actually managed to impress Tom with his so-called "evidence" against Bill Turner, Boxley, and the others. Tom told me that Vince showed him a report from Turner to Garrison in which he repeated someone's allegation that there were 200 (two HUNDRED) French Intelligence agents on Deadly Plaza during the shooting. Obviously, that must have been meant strictly for laughs, but Vince takes it literally and interprets it as evidence that the federal government, using Turner, was trying to entrap Garrison. Well, that is not really electrifying, considering some of Vince's other delusions. But I was sure surprised that he managed to get Tom Stamm into a semi-credulous frame of mind. (This, too, is just between the two of us, please—I guess this whole letter is.)

I liked your closing remark, about the rock garden, and I don't think I can top it. However, I enclose a small offering (which is not "classified" but available to anyone interested). Take care,

All the best,