

11818 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dorothy St.,
L.A., Calif. 90049
May 10 1968

Mark Lane
c/o Mrs. Joseph Field
1115 N. Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills, Calif 90210

Dear Mark,

I called your home last night in New Orleans, and spoke to your wife, not realizing that you had already left for California. I think that it is very important that while you are in town, and before you leave, we get together and have a completely private tete-a-tete over the Kerry Thornley affair.

As you may know, I have known Kerry Thornley for 3 years, and consider him a close friend. Furthermore, as you probably are aware, it was I who brought Kerry to Garrison's attention this past September, thinking that certain information he possessed concerning Oswald (in the Marines) would be useful to Garrison's investigation. To that end, considerable time was spent in the preparation and execution of four notarized statements, which were then sent to Garrison.

After that, Garrison came to Los Angeles and met with me alone for extended periods of time at the Century Plaza hotel. He wanted me to get Kerry (who had moved to Florida) to come to New Orleans and "cooperate" with him by "identifying" John Renee Heindel, who was the subject of some of these statements. Garrison told me at that time that he wanted to prosecute John Heindel for perjury. I tried to arrange a telephonic get together between Garrison's office and Thornley, which effort subsequently resulted in a nasty dispute. On October 30, 1967, Kerry mailed Garrison a very blunt and short letter, expressing the fact that he wanted nothing further to do with him.

Less than three short weeks later, on November 19, Jim was back in town. We again met at the Century Plaza hotel. He now had a brand new hypothesis. Kerry had been rapidly shifted from the star-witness-to-be list, to that of CIA agent/bad guy, who had met with and presumably conspired with Lee Oswald in the fall of 1963. The ostensive vehicle for this shift of position from star witness to culpable defendant was nothing more than a theory of the assassination postulating Kerry's involvement invented and promulgated by Warren Report critic Harold Welsberg, and some testimony from a local New Orleans character named Barbara Reid, a close acquaintance of Sciambra, one of Garrison's investigators. (Today, Welsberg booms in over local talk shows in Tampa by "beeper phone", chasing Thornley on his own time in what is apparently his own effort to keep the waters as hot as possible for him in Tampa and give him a bad press. Can you beat that??)

Garrison personally charged Kerry with perjury, after his testimony was taken by the Grand Jury. There was no indictment returned by that jury.

Sy Lora

When Garrison's office sent out the teletype on Kerry, after Garrison filled out the forms swearing that Kerry had committed perjury, the Florida authorities arrested him and put him in jail. There he stayed until he could make \$3000 bond. Although it may not be apparent, the powers of Garrison's office are not inconsiderable when thrown against a man of Thornley's very limited financial resources.

Thornley has now been arraigned.

In the past few weeks, I have tried to contact several people who are connected with the Thornley aspect of the Garrison investigation. Like a bunch of lily-livered liberals, each one is afraid to buck "the boss". Each assures me that he really hasn't looked into the matter, and that I should surely be speaking to someone else. Vincent Salandria, however, has written a letter to Garrison's office, and promised me a copy. In it, he urges that I meet with the staff down there. Unfortunately, another person who knows and has had dealings with Garrison informs me that if I even let on to Garrison that I strongly believe in my friend's innocence, he will ignore me, and that the only way to reach this man is to present to him a false front indicating "ambiguous feelings" about the matter.

If this is indicative of his mentality, no view has any success of reaching the inner circle unless it is already in accord with his own. Disastrous policies are born and executed in this manner.

You are not only the man most prominently affiliated with this case; you are also prominently affiliated with that investigation. A man's life and liberty is at stake here. I want to bring some of the facts of which I know to your attention and discuss this matter with you before you leave town. I only ask that you make your own private assessment of the situation, and then do anything you may want to do and/or can do in perhaps restraining Mr. Garrison in this matter.

I prefer a completely private meeting because I think it will insure a more frank exchange of views, than when third parties are present and "positions" tend to be defended for their sake.

Kerry's trial is yet to be. But I do not think that the adversary system of justice is necessarily going to keep him from going to prison, especially in the face of a DA who is apparently convinced of the validity of a false theory of his involvement. I hope the day is not reached where I will be visiting Kerry on the weekends in a Louisiana prison, his punishment for sticking to the truth as he sees it, and for not altering his testimony to fit Weisberg's theories, and Barbara Reid's conception of the reality of the event.

I am almost always at home, and anxiously await your call. My number is 826 1065. If you cannot reach me, send a telegram to be hand delivered, and I will get immediately upon my return.

Please let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

David S. Lifton