

28 August 1971

Dear Tom, *(Bethell)*

As you anticipated, I did not get to read your letter of 1st of July or the enclosed press clippings from the Picayune, on Garrison's arrest, until my return yesterday from a very pleasant, carefree vacation. Thanks for sending the clippings, which were indeed fascinating.

The Garrison coterie, no doubt Salandria as well, apparently reacted to the shock of the arrest like well-programmed little automatons, and like self-serving partisans who cannot bear to acknowledge that they could have been wrong about Garrison: he was FRAMED, went up the altogether predictable cry of anguish. I have no doubt that the federal establishment would have been prepared to frame Garrison if he was any problem to the administration (which he was not) or if he was invulnerable (which he certainly was not). His whole history, including his admitted free-loading in Las Vegas, reeks of an illicit relationship with the racketeers. The tape-recorded conversations --whatever one thinks of that dirty method, or of the hardly admirable Judas role of the equally unclean-handed Gervais, which I do find rather disgusting--leave no possible doubt that Garrison was venal and corrupt and thoroughly betrayed his public trust.

I wonder if your manuscript on the Garrison affair, if now up-dated and resubmitted to a publisher, might not have better prospects. Any developments on your book on Lewis?

It is good to be back, much as I enjoyed the two months of sun and ocean and complete isolation from the newspapers and reality in general, and much as I shudder at the great masses of pending work at home, on WR matters, and the even greater stacks of work that I will face when I return to my office. I enclose a short article written mere than a year ago and finally just published in the Texas Observer. Best regards, and please keep me posted on further developments,

As ever,