

Personal and Confidential  
Not for publication

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Mrs. Rosemary James  
The New Orleans States-Item  
New Orleans 70140

Dear Mrs. James,

Thank you for arranging for me to receive copies of Plot or Politics? The Garrison Case and Its Cast.\* Now that I have read the book, I should like to congratulate you and Mr. Wardlaw for having produced so expeditiously this informative, illuminating, and objective review of the Garrison "investigation."

I was particularly gratified by your impartiality and open-mindedness on the issue of the validity of the Warren Report and your statement that the doubts left behind by the Warren Commission must be resolved. I completely agree and in my forthcoming book, Accessories After The Fact: The Warren Commission, The Authorities, and The Report, have advocated a new investigation under very strict procedures, including in particular the adversary method.

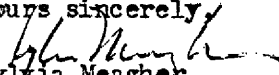
I also endorse with particular feeling your statement (on page 133) that the same standards of criticism must be applied both to the Warren Commission and Garrison. By applying a single standard, I have been led to reject the findings of both "investigations" as erroneous, false, and fraudulent. To my sorrow, many of the most eminent and praiseworthy of the critics of the Warren Report have applied to the Garrison "investigation" an entirely different standard of judgment, which has led them to condone or actively endorse his position, despite the abundance of his errors, misstatements, self-contradictions, and (in the case of the so-called "code") what must be termed a conscious fabrication.

What is so unfortunate and infuriating about the Garrison affair is that he has accused so many groups and individuals that some may actually be among those who are implicated in the assassination; but the flamboyant and unsupported charges against them by the New Orleans district attorney may, in effect, confer on them an immunity from suspicion or prosecution, even if responsible evidence is later produced by other parties than Garrison. To put it another way, Garrison's vaudevillian "probe" presents a danger to legitimate scholarship and criticism of the Warren Report, threatening to deprive authentic research of credibility or even an audience. Indeed, Garrison has assumed the role of a critic of the Warren Report (as well as a prosecutor, in the Shaw case), largely on the basis of the research of many genuine critics over the last four years, the results of which he consistently exaggerates and misstates.

I must admit that initially I was sympathetic to the Garrison investigation and volunteered any assistance that I could give. My alarm was aroused by the testimony of Perry Raymond Russo, whose story seems inherently absurd and implausible, and total disillusion set in when Garrison proclaimed the so-called "code" ("P.O. 19106"). It is therefore very gratifying that your book provides a factual account of the whole affair, which should serve to educate the public. I do hope it will be widely read.

As for the Warren Report, I hope that you and Mr. Wardlaw will find time to read Six Seconds in Dallas by Professor J. D. Thompson, as well as my own book, both to be issued at the end of November. I believe these two books, supplementing the earlier critical literature, prove conclusively that the Warren Report must be repudiated as absolutely untenable. With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Sylvia Meagher  
302 West 12 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10014

cc: Mr. Jack Wardlaw (enclosed)

\* Pelican Publishing House, New Orleans, 1967 - \$1.75