

3 May 1968

Mr. Richard Billings  
LIFE  
New York City 10020

Dear Mr. Billings,

Your articles in the Miami Herald on the Garrison "investigation" were most interesting and I completely share your view that Garrison is a demagogue. I am not sure that I can fully accept the conclusion of those who know Garrison personally that, whatever the flimsiness and capriciousness of his "evidence," he himself completely believes with the deepest conviction that he has found the right answers. I think that on occasion he has deliberately and disingenuously made claims about the evidence which he knew to be unfounded.

The charge that a secret CIA memorandum was destroyed on November 23, 1963 while being thermofaxed may have been made by Garrison, in the first instance, in good faith. I subsequently pointed out that the copy destroyed was not the only one extant: a different copy was furnished the Warren Commission by the State Department on 8 May 1964 (and still other copies had been previously furnished), as is clear from Commission Exhibit No. 948 (Volume XVIII, pages 180 and 188). It is true that the CIA memorandum has never been made public by the Warren Commission or other Governmental sources, but that is a separate issue from the misleading and specious charge of irrevocable loss of the document in question.

I have been told that Garrison privately did acknowledge that there are copies other than the one destroyed by thermofax, after which he continued to noisise his original accusations publicly, even though he knew them to be misleading and inaccurate.

I am certain that your account of the same matter in your Miami Herald series was in good faith and I thought that I should call your attention to the facts as they appear in the official exhibits.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher  
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