

30 July 1968

Mr. Art Kunkin
Editor
The Los Angeles Free Press
938 North Fairfax Ave.
Los Angeles 90046

Dear Art,

Re: The New Yorker vs. Garrison by Paul Eberle

When Mr. Eberle stops bellowing because his ox was well and truly gored, he may realize that he has a great deal in common with Ed Epstein. Eberle concedes that Garrison "has made blunders, has gone after false leads," but insists on Garrison's innate virtue and validity. Epstein, for his part, has revealed Garrison as the windbag and preposterous improviser he is, but chooses to regard the massively fraudulent and cunningly false Warren Report as marred merely by some procedural deficiencies and inadvertent errors, in spite of which it somehow stumbled to the "truth" about Dallas.

For Epstein, The Warren Commission and its lawyers are honorable men who made a few mistakes, while Garrison is a cheap and conspicuous trickster. For Eberle, the Warren Commission was an Establishment tool utilized to deceive the public with a false account of the assassination (and with this, I fully agree), while Garrison is an Authentic Hero whose "blunders"—however numerous, bizarre, and unretracted—reek innocence.

Let me make the radical suggestion that both Garrison and the Warren Commission stand self-conflicted of unscrupulous assaults on fact and truth, and indignities to logic and trust, as well as of some undeniably inadvertent and clumsy errors, and that both parties deserve nothing except contempt from the public.

As Eberle and Epstein have more in common than either might care to admit, so do Garrison and Warren. When confronted with damning and devastating evidence against his Report, Warren grandiosely comments only that the Report stands, not deigning to reply to a single specific charge and pretending that the charges are self-evident nonsense. Garrison, too, pretends that it is beneath his dignity to reply to specific charges, merely brushing them aside as evidence of the fiendish plot against his "truth-finding" or as "amateurish." When it is perfectly clear that Warren is silent because he cannot refute the charges, it should be equally clear that Garrison is silent because he is no less bankrupt than the Chief Justice.

The mirror-image relationship between Garrison and Warren would be quite clear to Mr. Eberle and other members of the Garrison clique if the New Orleans District Attorney, using the same "evidence" and "witnesses," accused the Students for a Democratic Society or the Du Bois Club or Fidel Castro, instead of the scruffy collection of right-wingers and twilight characters he has accused. His "case" would be buried under the mountain of deserved scorn and outrage under which the Warren Report, its more sophisticated twin, today lies burdened. I am sorry that Eberle and Epstein, in their own twinhood, and their respective partisans, do not join me in saying to Garrison and Warren, a plague on both your houses.

Yours sincerely,

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