

13 August 1969

Mr. Warren Rogers
Chief, Washington Bureau
LOOK
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Rogers,

I do applaud your article "Garrison, Shaw and JFK" in the current LOOK. You have put it in a nutshell when you say that Garrison wanted to try the Warren Report, and that he needed a judicial forum and a patsy. Not content with sacrificing and ruining an innocent man, when Garrison finally got his judicial forum he did not even do an informed or effective job of challenging the Warren Report.

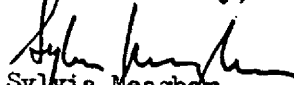
That Garrison's political friends (or political enemies, for that matter) did little or nothing to stop him or to protect Clay Shaw, does not really occasion great surprise. Politicians do not often place principle at the top of the list. The real disappointment was that individuals who are capable of discernment and scruples overcame their own distaste and doubt, aiding and abetting this crude charlatan without stint. Certainly there were assistant district attorneys on his staff who knew perfectly well what he was about but took no step to prevent his gross abuse of power. I wonder if men like Jim Alcock or Louis Ivon sleep well at night.

The same question might be asked about many of my fellow-critics of the Warren Report who tenaciously tried to justify even Garrison's most mortifying tactics and who still invite humiliation and contempt by contriving outlandish alibis for his debacle at the Shaw trial. The fact that I denounced him publicly and categorically, beginning in the summer of 1967, got me for my pains the hostility and rancor of a number of the critics and researchers who, in pre-Garrison days, had been my warm friends and colleagues.

Clay Shaw, in his forbearance and lack of malice, has remained a gentle man even after his long and dreadful ordeal at the hands of gutter-fighters. If the law in fact offers him no opportunity for redress, if he can be ruined for no fault other than having "Clay" for his given name and a private life that makes him vulnerable to shoddy small-timers like Garrison, then something is dreadfully wrong with the law. Those who kept silent and left him to his fate carry some share of responsibility for what Shaw suffered.

But others not considered in your admirable article have also contributed to this wretched injustice, though indirectly. Had the news media supported, rather than obstructed, a new inquiry into the Dallas assassination conducted by a competent, impartial and responsible body established for that purpose, back in 1966, there might have been no opportunity for a cheap opportunist to capitalize on a genuine miscarriage of justice in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald by committing a great injustice against Clay Shaw. There is more than enough blame to go around.

Yours sincerely,


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

13 August 1969

Mr. Warren Rogers
Chief, Washington Bureau
LOOK 488 *Madison* NYC 10022
~~Washington, D.C.~~

Dear Mr. Rogers,

I do applaud your article "Garrison, Shaw and JFK" in the current LOOK. You have put it in a nutshell when you say that Garrison wanted to try the Warren Report, and that he needed a judicial forum and a patsy. Not content with sacrificing and ruining an innocent man, when Garrison finally got his judicial forum he did not even do an informed or effective job of challenging the Warren Report.

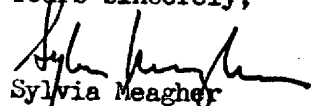
That Garrison's political friends (or political enemies, for that matter) did little or nothing to stop him or to protect Clay Shaw, does not really occasion great surprise. Politicians do not often place principle at the top of the list. The real disappointment was that individuals who are capable of discernment and scruples overcame their own distaste and doubt, aiding and abetting this crude charlatan without stint. Certainly there were assistant district attorneys on his staff who knew perfectly well what he was about but took no step to prevent his gross abuse of power. I wonder if men like Jim Alcock or Louis Ivon sleep well at night.

The same question might be asked about many of my fellow-critics of the Warren Report who tenaciously tried to justify even Garrison's most mortifying tactics and who still invite humiliation and contempt by contriving outlandish alibis for his debacle at the Shaw trial. The fact that I denounced him publicly and categorically, beginning in the summer of 1967, got me for my pains the hostility and rancor of a number of the critics and researchers who, in pre-Garrison days, had been my warm friends and colleagues.

Clay Shaw, in his forbearance and lack of malice, has remained a gentle man even after his long and dreadful ordeal at the hands of gutter-fighters. If the law in fact offers him no opportunity for redress, if he can be ruined for no fault other than having "Clay" for his given name and a private life that makes him vulnerable to shoddy small-timers like Garrison, then something is dreadfully wrong with the law. Those who kept silent and left him to his fate carry some share of responsibility for what Shaw suffered.

But others not considered in your admirable article have also contributed to this wretched injustice, though indirectly. Had the news media supported, rather than obstructed, a new inquiry into the Dallas assassination conducted by a competent, impartial and responsible body established for that purpose, back in 1966, there might have been no opportunity for a cheap opportunist to capitalize on a genuine miscarriage of justice in the case of Lee Harvey Oswald by committing a great injustice against Clay Shaw. There is more than enough blame to go around.

Yours sincerely,


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