

Telephone call from Vince Salandria, Sunday night 11 pm 8/6/67

Has returned, intends to say nothing on phone or by letter, but will wait until we can speak personally. Will say only that he is "not happy," which is more than he has said to anyone else.

As for Garrison, "he is a beautiful man, he really is...he is a human being, errs in judgment, has weaknesses of course, but his motives above suspicion..." No question of his decency, you should see the way he acts with his kids and his wife, the way they respond to him...he is a good man..."in public office, he is better than anyone Vince knows... can say nothing in any way critical of him..." Garrison treated him just beautifully, let him do and see anything, gave him carte blanche, spent a great deal of time with him, permitted Vince to criticize, and Vince did criticize. Garrison has no ulterior motives...

There is enough data already to establish what had to have happened and as soon as Tom Katen finishes his book (on a different subject) he will get to work constructing a model of what happened, based on PH doctors entrance wound throat failure close borders T.H. White re Air Force One etc...

(The above from notes; the following from memory, 6 a.m. Monday)

Although Vince did not wish to say anything, I told him that I had already had word from other sources indicating his reaction after reviewing all the evidence (he said, no one should have discussed that), and that it was clear from his plans for construction of a model of what happened that Garrison in fact had nothing, as I had always said...I challenged Vince to indicate if he would still maintain what he and the other Garrison supporters have been arguing all along---i.e., he MUST have it, or why is the Government fighting him so hard. Vince hedged, saying that the Government has many problems about Garrison, political problems ...and it may be that Shaw will be found guilty, what made me so sure Shaw was innocent????

This question angered me considerably, and I reminded Vince that the accused is presumed innocent until proved guilty by his accusers; on the known evidence, everyx critic of the WR should be presuming Shaw's innocence and denouncing the kind of evidence cited against him...which led to a prolonged argument about Russo...Vince believes Russo, even though his story may be hard to believe...he also believes Sciambria, although he confirms that his first written report contains nothing about the party in Ferrie's apartment...However, the report was written about ten days later, and after Russo was under sodium pentathol, so it was not that important anyhow...I asked incredulously if Vince bought that, he said he did...As for the "code," he insists Garrison is not fabricating evidence because Garrison still believes the code is valid...Vince does not agree, and told him, but no, he did not "deconvince" him...I pointed out that Garrison had admitted privately that the code was a mistake but an honest one so he would not retract it, and that he must have lied to Vince when he said that he still believed in the code...As for Garrison's treatment of his wife and children, I felt sure that Warren was a most affectionate father and that his wife responded to him, which was utterly irrelevant...At one point, Vince said pointedly that he thinks that no one should make vicious attacks on Garrison. SM: What kind of attacks? VS: No attacks on Garrison. SM: Well, I intend to attack him, I think every critic should be attacking him, no one should cover up his blunders, his lies, or his fabricated evidence. Vince, how can you look yourself in the face? You have done such vital work, working with hard evidence, with trajectories and bullets and the autopsy report --how can you ask now that we ignore the facts and proceed on the basis of faith

in a man who stands discredited by the facts and the record? I had always taken it for granted that we were working with the same purposes but now I am wondering if we are not on opposite sides completely. I felt heartsick to hear him speak as he was speaking and saw nothing to be gained from continuing the discussion, as our views were more irreconcilable than ever before.