

10 March 1967

Mr. Gordon Pollard
2825 Shelbourne Street
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Gordon,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 7th and the enclosures, which I received with appreciation and read with interest.

The David McReynolds article was very good, I thought--well-reasoned and generally objective. The newspaper story on my address was quite faithful to my actual remarks, which is not always the case in the press stories which appear here--just one omission, which I am sure was not intentional: that is, that my remark that "there is more evidence against Johnson than against Oswald" was paraphrased from an article by Harold Feldman, whom I believe I credited.

If you should learn something more about Ralph Simpson, I certainly should be interested. So, I believe, would Garrison. My impressions of his probe are favorable. I base this on a number of statements made by Garrison himself, including his reply to a reporter who questioned the desirability of stirring things up: "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall." And his statement that "there is no evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald killed anybody in Dallas on November 22nd."

Apart from Garrison's own remarks (which might have come from any of a number of my colleagues, and which certainly express my own beliefs and appraisal of the evidence), I have had several long conversations with three people just as they returned from New Orleans. One, a French reporter whom I have known for some time and whose judgment I respect, spent considerable time with Garrison over a one-week period. He told me (and subsequently his readers in France) that Garrison was extraordinarily intelligent, cultivated, exceptionally hard-working, with a prodigious memory, tremendous intellectual curiosity, a passion for the truth, personal courage, and incorruptibility. More such impressions came from an American TV reporter. And a third person, a former federal agent, while he did not see Garrison personally, did spend time with his chief investigator; and came away with the impression that Garrison's investigation was in the hands of highly professional, high-calibre people, who seemed to have sufficient evidence to imbue them with considerable inner confidence. The one fault attributed to Garrison by two of the friends on their return from New Orleans was that he tended to talk too much, too readily, and too rashly. Often the mark of an honest person who is deeply absorbed and committed.

Certainly I believe that Garrison is on the right track in his theory of an anti-Castro Cuban exile/right-wing American (and maybe CIA agents) conspiracy. It remains to be seen whether his evidence is as good as will be needed to persuade the courts and the public, after the shameful campaign waged against him by the press. I may be entirely wrong; but these are my personal impressions about Garrison (at least, during my optimistic moments).

Do let me hear from you again. I will be interested in the progress of your work on the case. My book goes soon to the printers, for galleys. Best,