

*File: Newcomb*

18 September 1969

Mr Fred Newcomb  
4640 Noble Ave  
Sherman Oaks 91403

Dear Fred,

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to Penn Jones, who was a good friend of mine until the onset of his incurable Garrisonitis.

I will be interested in any reply he sends you. Unfortunately, Garrisoniks by definition do not judge on the basis of facts or logic or merit, but only by whether or not any given circumstance sustains Garrison's preposterous claims and their continued self-delusion--in which case the circumstances are "true" and to hell with elementary fairness and even sanity.

You will probably be heaped with abuse for rising to the defense of a known right-winger and for daring to presume that such a political leper has the same entitlements to fairness and factual fidelity as thee and me. I find the right-wing doctrine exceedingly tedious, sterile, and sometimes quite evil. But I insist that they, the right-wingers, have the same rights and privileges as I claim for myself, including protection against slander and malicious mischief. Oddly enough, most of the abuse which has been directed against my work on the Warren Report has come from the so-called "liberals" of the Garrison school of paranoia, including some of the WR critics.

I learned long ago to receive pronouncements from Penn Jones with a healthy amount of scepticism, for he does get carried away by some far-fetched notions and some exceedingly frail and dubious "facts." I am especially annoyed that Roger Craig has utilized my thesis of the impersonation of Secret Service agents to prop up his sordid little fiction of an encounter with Bradley at the Book Depository, which does an injustice to Bradley and compromises a perfectly valid hypothesis explaining the invisibility of the gunmen on the grassy knoll.

Please stay in touch. Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Syavia Meagher  
302 West 12 St  
NYC NY 10014