

30 May 1967

Dear Vince,

Let me be certain that I made the facts clear on the phone last night. The so-called decoding of identical notations ("PO 19106") in both Shaw's and Oswald's address books is not valid. Garrison has acknowledged that the "PO" in Oswald's book is in fact the Cyrillic "DD." Therefore, the notation in his book cannot be a cryptogram for Ruby's unpublished telephone number in Dallas in 1963.

As for the notation in Shaw's book ("Lee Odom, P.O. Box 19106, Dallas, Texas"): there appears to be a real individual by that name, who had a post office box with that number, who had a casual meeting with Shaw in 1965. This may or may not be true; but it has not been refuted or seriously challenged.

The basis for the claim by Garrison that both Oswald and Shaw, using an identical code, had recorded in their notebooks Ruby's unpublished number has therefore disappeared. The implication of the claim, that these three individuals maintained a clandestine or criminal association, related to or culminating in three murders or more, is extremely serious. It falsely incriminates a man under indictment for conspiracy to assassinate the President; and it foists upon the American people a false "solution" of the assassination no less invidious and no less shameful than the fraudulent Warren Report.

Garrison intends to maintain his claim about the "code" despite its fraudulence.

Critics of the Warren Report have maintained for almost four years that they reject its lies and deception and that they are determined to expose the fraud, for the sake of truth and justice. You denounced the Warren Commission as a fact-concealing body, in your October 1966 Liberation article; you denounced the gross fraud they had perpetrated; you called for a rekindling in the American people of a sense of outrage prerequisite to a rebirth of democracy.

There will be no rebirth if we substitute Garrison's fraud for the Commission's. His proclaimed ends do not justify his means. On the contrary, his means expose his proclaimed ends to be demagogic rhetoric --they reveal him to be without respect for the truth and without respect for justice. We will not arrive at an honorable society on a road paved with fraudulent codes, the testimony of Russos and Bundys, or the railroading of sexual deviates. I do not condone in Garrison the dishonesty that I repudiate in the Warren Report. It converts a struggle between good and evil into a mere struggle for power.

You must make your own judgments, as I must make mine. I will be deeply sorry if our long affectionate association finds us, in the end, in opposite camps. Unless there was a complete failure of communication last night, that seems to be the case.

