

"Before publication of the Warren Report, there was the irresistible reaction against the audacity of those who loudly proclaimed the dead man's guilt but asked those who had doubts to keep silent. After the Report, there was something even more irresistible: the feeling that, in this case, silence would give consent to injustice."---Leo Sauvage, in the Introduction to The Oswald Affair.

9 August 1967

Dear Vince,

Sauvage has expressed better than I could when you called me Sunday night the reasons that cause me to reject the suggestion that "there should be no attacks on Garrison." I am glad that you retracted the phrase "vicious attacks," as I would be very sorry if our long and close friendship had left you with the impression that I would attack the Warren Report or Garrison out of malice rather than conscience.

I hope that I will never again be asked to "justify" my presumption that an accused man is innocent---or even that a man declared by dishonest judges to be "guilty" is in fact innocent.

You know that I have felt certain for a long time that Garrison had no evidence and no case. I had hoped that when this became plain to Garrison's adherents, they would cease being mesmerized by the irrelevant and surrealistic "investigation" in New Orleans and disassociate themselves from what is a clear danger to the effectiveness and credibility of legitimate criticism and research. But it seems that while you no longer insist that Garrison has solved the assassination or that he has a viable case against Shaw, you support him more than ever. Apparently, then, our positions are irreconcilable, regardless of whether Garrison's "case" is illusory.

It goes without saying that I am bitterly unhappy that you and I should find ourselves in serious conflict on an issue of fundamental importance. I think that you know, from a shared experience on a Sunday last fall, that I am not unyielding on a personal level. But on an issue of principle, to yield is unthinkable. On the day that I accept Russo and Bundy, I will also accept Markham and Brennan---and you may be sure that that will never come to pass.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher