

November 18, 1968

Dear Mrs. Meagher,

Before I begin, let me say that I hope that you feel no need to answer this letter. I am painfully aware of the fact that my previous letters have raised points which you felt compelled to answer for very understandable reasons, but I feel that we can discuss any of these things during Christmas vacation (vacation at least for me as a student). Your last letter was prompted by rightful indignation and I'm glad that you clarified the issue, but I'm sorry that I prompted ~~##~~ you to write a letter about it. Given the issue, I can well understand why you answered me immediately since I would have felt the same compulsion in your shoes.

As I mentioned in my last letter, I will do my best to inform those with whom I am in contact about the authentic facts of the story. I am accepting your version as a correct one simply because it makes sense and is consistent with your behavior in the past and general approach to things in this case. Furthermore, the stories which I have heard have been very vague and I have always been interested in the full details of the incident, but they have never been elaborated upon by those who tell the story.

Garrison's cancelling of the appointment is a commonplace occurrence. He has cost Harold Weisberg much important time and money pulling the same sort of stunt. Mark Lane, of course, is the master of this. The last time he was in Minneapolis I laterally chased him all over the city for 3 days. He had been there for 5 and hadn't phoned me, and the only way I knew he was there was that a friendly radio station called me about it. Ironically, the only reason I spent time chasing him and tolerated his failure to keep appointments or to inform me that he wouldn't keep them was that I wanted some specific information on what Abe Bolden told him, for reasons that will become clear when I show you what I have on Bolden. I finally caught up with him at the airport and had to share his attentions with a girl who had been accompanying him around. Since she was of the proverbial "dumb blond" school, it wasn't too disturbing to have to discuss things of importance in her presence. As usual, it was all for nothing since I ended up briefing Lane rather than him briefing me.

Vince's views on Garrison have changed quite a bit and your mention of his urging you to go to New Orleans to visit brought this to mind. The last time Vince was down there he saw things which disturbed him quite a bit. In fact, he decided against sending Chris Kefalos down to work there that summer. Last summer, in response to many comments by myself and Harold Weisberg, he began to show definite signs of wavering and concern. But as you know, Vince's macroscopic approach to the problems of the case make him difficult to deal with on things such as this.

I certainly don't think, and I doubt if many other people really think, that a meeting between you and Garrison would have overcome your objections. This in no way diminishes my feeling that it is unfortunate that he broke his appointment to meet with you, since even if for a short while you might have kept him above

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board and honest. God only knows what will happen in the time before Clay Shaw goes to trial, since it looks as though it may be a long time before the case is heard in court. You are correct, of course, that it is difficult for critics of the WR to explain your views, and this is precisely why I was interested in contacting you. By the way, you might be interested in the only theory on this score I have heard, as way out as it sounds. Someone actually suggested that you were being blackmailed--i.e. threats to kill M.S. Armoni! This is obviously so ridiculous and far fetched that I have only heard it once and on that occasion spoken in whispers. Ray Marcus decided that Tink was an agent, a topic which was discussed in long hours on the telephone between Ray, Vince, myself, and Harold. I thought that it was way out but Vince believed it for a while. Lifton was passed off on two grounds: 1. That he was a nut and the author of things such as the paper mache grassy knoll theory 2. That he had had extensive contact with Liebler and had been conned by Thornley. One of the ironies of this whole thing is that you are one of the first, if not the first, critic to discuss the assassination in terms of the political milieu in which it took place. I am referring to your review of Manchester's book in which you drew a brief parallel to Diem, if I remember correctly. I haven't heard the theory that you didn't want the case solved. Lane's suggestion that it might hurt the sale of your bookis, I agree, undoubtedly a projection. It is a shame that your book didn't come out earlier because it is valuable, and perhaps Garrison did hurt it's sales slightly, but to turn that into a motive for anything could only come from Mark Lane's mind.

I hope that in your letter of the rejection of the offer to join the new Corporation you explained your reasons. Despite that Garrison et. al. might reject them, Fensterwald, who would get your letter first, might not. In any event, it is good to be on record, especially about things such as their by-laws. I intend to make my views clear on that as soon# as I hear from Bud. They are very bad and unless they are changed I might not agree to stay a member. Unfortunately, I doubt if anyone much has read them.

Harold is still in New Orleans staying with Matt Herron, the guy who did the photography for the Saturday Evening Post ~~attack~~ on Garrison. He is a friend of Vince's and did a lot of work in Memphis after the Martin Luther King assassination. He is still making great gains and has gathered some important information. As usual, he stays in New Orleans with no contact with Garrison, but still deals with head investigator Louis Ivon. Lou, as I have probably mentioned before, is a honest and sincere guy, and neither Harold nor I have any qualms about giving him ~~the~~ results of our investigations. Neither of us sends anything to Jim, nor have we for a very long period of time. Some information which I had last Spring which I was able to keep secret despite a ransaking of my apartment and robbery of my files, was taken from Jim's "locked files" within a week of my visit down there. He and his office are the greatest security leaks every conceived of, and present a real danger to the witnesses who agree to give information.

Well, take care and I hope to see you# over Christmas.

Sincerely yours,

*Dary*  
Gary Schoener