

10118 - 63rd Ave. N.
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25 Sept 68

Dear Mrs Meagher,

Thank you for your 21 Sept.

Let me restate from my 15 Sept to Mr Arnoni: "Please understand that ^{I am not} questioning the integrity or honesty of TMO here." I will say the same of you. And: "I am left with the feeling that you are finding yourself obliged to omit references to the primary thing or things which prompted your change in sentiment re Garrison..." - which I also say to yourself.

I acknowledge that once I "had put Garrison in a class with God, or the next class to it" - but this is not a thing for which I should apologize. To name a thing, his introduction to Osw in NO certainly did impress me. But you must also credit me for having been tossed off balance so readily when you supplied me with arguments arguing against the thesis that he was an emissary from Heaven. I mean, Devotion is nice - but I am capable of getting disenchanted with anything you can name as long as I get provided with disenchantment type arguments which impress me. A thing you could perhaps discredit me with is being always in a state of confusion. But then that might be the normal state for a person who keeps himself open for accepting New information.

"This led me to hope that you had de-deified Garrison and would henceforth regard him with the same sceptical intelligence as you had applied to the Warren Report...": You can be sure that this is the case, and your hope has not been shot down.

You ask "Will you please tell me why Garrison is relieved of the responsibility of confronting explicit charges, while Warren is rightly branded as bankrupt of any justification ## for his Report for failing to confront explicit charges against it?" Answer: Unless I don't have the story right, Garrison is begging for the opportunity to be confronted. If it should be that Garrison is not begging for this, it would be a fact of overriding importance - and a thing which should be called to public attention by those critics who might be aware of it. Your question would be, in my opinion, 100% valid except in the case of a district attorney who appears to be breaking his leg wanting to answer - in court or after it. After court he would find himself unable to claim that his remarks might influence the successful completion of the case.

The apparent weakness of the TMO anti-Garrison position can be seen clearly, for example, in TMO Nov '67, pp 22, 23, in the "Editor's Reply" to a Garrison letter. The reply would best have been left out if it was intended to strengthen Arnoni's own case, which I assume it was intended to do. Pardon my opinion, but I seem to think Mr Arnoni was grasping for straws when he limits himself to remarking upon Garrisons "Ordinarily I avoid getting involved with details resulting from misunderstandings because this would engage me full time in writing letters of explanation." As Garrison's letter was a rather interesting one, the reply to it seemed especially lacking.

Your own response to Garrison's letter (TMO Dec '67) was even more poor than Arnoni's. You suggest (but, I am sure, cannot possibly ### really believe) that Garrison does not bother to fuss with details, and you make it sound like Garrison was actually saying this in his letter.

Again - I have no reason to believe that both you & Arnoni are anything but completely honest in your private evaluations of Garrison. You are both convinced that he is some kind of horrible bastard, and maybe with horns yet. Fine. Maybe he is. But my quarrel is that you are not convincing me with your arguments, and I am wondering how come you are not being successful. If I am puzzled, as a TMO reader, I don't think it is presumptuous of me to assume that other readers might be confused too.

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Your page 2, para 1: I have to bow to you... I just haven't been exposed to the references you cite, so I can't give you an argument. My daily paper and the other media do not ordinarily deal with such things. All I know is what I read in TMO, you could say. And incidentally, my 15 Sept to Arnoni dealt solely with published TMO material.

Re your same para: the mysterious number 19106. One followed by Nine followed by One followed by Zero followed by Six. All I ever hear about it is seemingly diversionary comments, such things as prefixes to the number and some manner in which the number might have been encoded into something else. From the point of view of the man on the street, though (me), the primary interest would be in the repetition of the number itself. And, as Garrison said, "...it occurs again and again and again." He doesn't mention just where - but then I note ##### the silence of TMO published critics in this matter also.

I

Incidentally: A few weeks ago # sat through a 2 1/2 hour WLCY broadcast devoted to an Open Mike appearance of Mark Lane. I am aware of the suggestion you make that anybody can swoon anybody else as long as he has the gift for doing it and as long as his audience is willing to be # swooned. Maybe you would agree that Hubert Humphrey is one such type, for instance. But I am certain that you must note this difference: that when Lane opens his mouth, he says something. How nice it was a year or so ago when I couldn't tell the difference between RUSH TO JUDGEMENT and ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT. Each of you could almost have written the other's book. What has happened since is not clear, but I am thinking it is too bad. It is becoming a typical situation, of course, but that only makes it worse. A man could almost get to think that there was some kind of outside interference from somewhere, some force bent on introducing & perpetuating confusion - and possibly for the sake of maintaining the comfortable status quo minute by minute.

A thing people maybe "ought" to do is to pay attention to how they came about their opinions, or their changes of opinions. In TMO for September, Arnoni (p8) says "Epstein does not tell us a word as to why he changed his mind, he does not even state having changed it." (Incidentally, I have yet to be convinced that he did change it.) As for explaining publicly about one's changing opinions - which is a thing I vote 100% for having published every time - I note the conspicuous fact that Arnoni himself made a spectacularly lousy job of explaining to his readers just how come he shifted his love away from Garrison.* Whenever the Tone & Fury in a tirade goes beyond the explanations provided in support of it, the inevitable will happen: It will be noticed.

*TMO, Oct '67, p11.

Your page 2 para 3 is a welcome thing, as it gives me the opportunity to respond to it. I just looked Caveat up in the dictionary - And believe me, I'm not caveating anybody. All I am is a normal confused ordinary citizen, and any time I see myself handing out ultimatums to people I will go have ## my head inspected. The intent of my letter to Mr Arnoni (and, by implication, to yourself) was to call # attention to the fact that I, as a reader, and as a willing reader, was not able to exactly follow the TMO thoughts re whether or not Garrison is or is not some kind of malicious thorny bastard of one undescribed type or another. Your carefully underlined words re Arnoni vs Garrison might indeed be correct. If so, maybe it would be a relief to me: I could then be thinking that Arnoni is only some kind of stupid ass. It is the alternative possibility that fusses me up, though - the possibility that Arnoni is every bit as sharp as he seems to be (and also as human), but that he might be as easily susceptible as anybody else to "confidential whispers". And, I mean, act in accord with his beliefs - this being the sort of thing honorable men do. If Arnoni & I somehow received absolutely Positive Proof that at 8am in the morning 372,000 would be boiled into soap unless TMO came out in favor of the Straw Hat Tax bill or something, I would expect him to do it. Could we expect less of him? If we need a description of An Honorable Man, we could ### define

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him as being one who acts strictly in accordance with his beliefs. Whether he might be dead right or dead wrong in his conclusions would have nothing to do with it.

I am sorry that you regard it "patronizing and offensive" that I should suggest that you and Arnoni might be dupes - especially since this was the essence of my letter. Unfortunately you tend to automatically group dupes together with nitwits, and therefore immediately reject any suggestion that you are a dupe or associate with dupes. It may be that you are not a dupe - but your reaction to the suggestion is a thing you might profit from pondering. For one to consider himself immune to being duped automatically makes him a good prospect, wouldn't you say? If the JFK assn investigation is as important as we think it is, and if the opposition to ~~the~~ further investigation is as ~~powerful~~ powerful and well-moneyed and as blessed with resources as we might think - then we simply can't help but suppose that the trick of planting misinformation here & there is being resorted to. As the method is older than gunpowder by far, it has had ample ages to develop into modern, sophisticated forms. To think that only dull people are subject to duping is, I think, just about the most serious mistake which can be made by a person who presents himself in public.

Yes - the cc distribution list did appear on the original. And the "Etc", as it turned out, was to only one other person, a man and his wife. I would tell you who, except that I don't know myself - having had only an address on hand, and wanting to see whether an acknowledgement would be forthcoming. So far, it hasn't forthcome. The "Etc" was included mainly to cover ~~the possibility~~ the possibility that I might later send additional copies to others, though I don't really expect to as I see no reason to. Private correspondence bugs me whenever it carries some kind of "Shhh! This is Private!" overtone, and I try to avoid it, and often will make an effort at conveying the idea to the person with whom I'm in correspondence.

To single out one Big question, one that is bound to be in the mind of many TMO readers: How come the lack of interest in pushing for an early Garrison trial ~~#####~~? That way we, the readers, would get to find out more or less just what everything is all about. All we have in the meantime is TMO telling us that Garrison is the wrong kind of prosecutor for this case.

There is no need to reply to this letter, and in fact I'd much rather you didn't spend the time doing it. If it inspires you to comment, I would very very much rather have you just simply weave your comments into future articles & books.

Your page 1, para 4: No, I have not corresponded with Mark Lane. As for ~~your~~ your various recollections in the paragraph, I have no reason to disbelieve that they are completely accurate. But so what? If, for instance, Trevor-Roper calls Mark Lane a goddam liar - does that make Mark Lane a liar? ~~##~~ As for the LA Free Press article you mentioned, about the editor's retraction, what does it mean? I haven't seen the article, but imagine it was a thing in the "yes he did - no he didn't" category. Had it been more than this I imagine the news services would have grabbed onto it with delight and I would have read about it in my local paper. As for editors retracting things, is it true that whenever this happens we can say "Ha! At last we have the true news."? If the LA Free Press editor had written "I retract what I once wrote about LBJ being an unconscionable bastard, based on information I have received proving to my satisfaction that he is really a swell feller after all." - if he had written this, could we really use his statement in an argument? What we seem to lack is actual confrontations by truly opposing people - live, and in public. And what could be better than having Garrison conduct the trials he is wanting? If it should turn out that Garrison and "the establishment" and the defense attorneys are all in the Same Camp, then we would certainly be able to recognize the situation as the trials progressed.

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Your p 1, last para, again - the part about Epstein: My puzzlement about your relationship with Epstein is so great that it is hard to even begin commenting. I would almost rather bury my head in the sand than have to face up to this crazy thing. I have read his New Yorker article, and his Inquest, and ^{am aware} of some of the assistance with which you have provided him in the past, and of your current willingness to provide further assistance. All I can say is that the whole thing strikes me as being absolutely perfectly Crazy. It is like, for one example, like you are saying "There is nothing at all wrong with Epstein except that he just obviously has never looked into the 26 vols and therefore doesn't yet realize that it is all a hoax, but except for that minor detail we should listen carefully to what he has to say." And if that is not what you are saying, then what are you saying? It seems obvious to me that you are somehow not aware of your own recent public image - or else you wouldn't be writing what you now write. I mean, look: here I sit and write you a long letter. Why?

It suddenly strikes me that this is a question I ought to ask myself - "Why?". In trying to figure out the answer, the best thing I can come up with is that I am hoping that you will sit down & re-read your own anti-Garrison articles & ~~###~~ letters of the past year, trying to put yourself in the position of the reader rather than of the writer. The odds against anybody being able to do this successfully are probably pretty high, but when it comes down to it that is about all I can give you in the way of free advice. Pardon my presumptuous tone here, by the way. If I had the answers to my own problems I wouldn't be sitting here banging away at a letter.

How too bad it is that societies can't be based on equally agreed upon truths, and that these truths are de facto available to one and all. What is "wrong" with the idea of everybody everywhere being aware of the nature of his situation? If stability in society is a thing that's yearned for, what more stable thing is there than some institution based on truth and honesty? I am suspecting that whispered arguments to the contrary might be playing a big part in shaping ~~###~~ our human situation. And throughout history, I mean. (One to read: THE VELIKOVSKY AFFAIR, University Books, 1966.) (University Books went bankrupt shortly after this, and was bought out by..... Lyle Stuart. If you want to buy the book nowadays you get it in a wrapper from the Mystic Arts Book Society or something. But perhaps it can be had from the library. About a year ago it was reprinted in England, though I do not know of its fate there.)

Your p 2, para 1: Yes? Well? In view of the number of questions to be asked I am not surprised that all were not answered - this being a thing you can't do unless you have your own publishing house out in the back yard. ## As for the specific things you mentioned: Doesn't Russo have a \$1 million suit against Time? ## Didn't Garrison have things to say about 19106 in his letter to TMO? As for the epileptic and the defective Thermofax machine - what is wrong with thinking that Garrison simply goofed on those things? It took me a half a year or so go go thru the 26 about twice, and it does not mystify me one bit that wrong conclusions can ## be jumped to. I can also believe in the possibility, or likelihood, that there is a considerable effort in progress to help Garrison get confused, diverted, mislead, sidetracked, delayed, discredited. To not suspect this would be to show a naivety in not suspecting the resources of the primary anti-Garrison powers. Or, if you prefer, "anti-" Garrison powers. One would confuse me as much as the other. How nice if Garrison could have his day in court, don't you think? If you don't think so, how about making a point of saying so to all us readers and then spelling out to us how come you think not? A thing I will always vote for is a lessening of confusion.

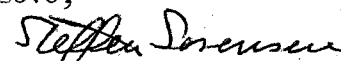
I have the feeling that Arnoni is going to fly the coop, headmast and all. Well, it was great while it lasted.

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To end this, your ~~###~~ closing paragraph: I am not trying to get into some useless private discussion of some kind. What I am trying to do is goad you into improving, if you can, the convincingness of what you are nowadays writing. As a reader, it is almost hard for me to believe that you are the same person who wrote ACCESSORIES. I am sure that it is equally plain to many of your ~~##~~ admirers that something must have happened - but what? Can't you tell us? If you can't... well, I guess that's life. Whatever it was, I guess it must have been terribly convincing. Probably it also was made to appeal to the instincts of which you are most proud. That is the way ~~##~~ it is often done, I'd guess. Better than gunpowder, even.

Hope you do not go off on a slant and consider this as a Crank letter. It isn't. It's a Love letter, and I would want for you to recognize it as such.

Love,



Steffen Sorensen

And I give equal Love to Garrison, by the way. It is the least anybody can do while the status is quoining, and while we are all sitting around. Which reminds me: people are still sitting around puzzling about whether J W Booth was a loner. Maybe someday we will get the answer, don't you think? No, I don't either. As for JFK, the easiest thing for me to believe, even if I don't like to, is that the popular concern a generation from now will still not have gotten much beyond worrying about bullet trajectories & such.

To pick a thing from THREE ASSASSINATIONS, which is open beside me: "Since Wade is - to paraphrase Leo Sauvage - the Jim Garrison of Dallas, it is not unfitting that the one should speak for the other." Now just what kind of crap is that? I don't argue with you whether or not they are both one and the same bird, because I really cannot know. But can't you see that all you are doing is standing on a soap box and talking like a professional politician? And, inevitably, that you are being read in this light? Your remark is certainly an interesting one and I am sure you would not have written it had you not believed it. But what of these who read what you write? Are you addressing only ~~##~~ an audience of fans of some kind, or to everybody in general? Don't you remember any more that whenever you write something you ought to be prepared to explain what you mean - and preferably in the same breath?

I am sorry if I make you unhappy, but I am unhappy too. Equality.