

23 March 1968

Dear Tom,

Thank you for sending me the material from the International Rescue Committee (which, as you say, presents a new mystery without clearing up the old ones) and now your paper "A Straw In The Wind."

I was most interested in Stone's remarks and his belated if indirect recognition of the link (or possible link) between Dallas and Vietnam. The one conspiracy ("secretly pre-arranged decision" to usurp Congressional power, by "a private cabal in the executive...") is sufficiently damning, even if not linkable (yet) to the assassination. It is possible that the cabal merely took advantage of the situation created in Dallas without complicity or prior knowledge on their part; on the other hand, those who engineered this evil war and who continue to insist that it must be pursued, even if it buries the whole population of a tiny country, would not have been above removing a Presidential obstacle.

But I have to disagree strongly with one aspect of your essay --that is, the implication that Garrison is a man to be taken seriously and even encouraged to pursue an investigation along the lines suggested by Stone's disclosures. I am entirely aware ^{of} your assessment of Garrison but others may derive the impression that you regard him (despite your characterization of his "thundering" and "mumbling") as a legitimate investigator or critic.

Apart from this ambiguity, the essay is provocative and I hope that you have sent, or will send, copies to Fulbright, Stone, et al. Apropos of the very last sentence: included in my original ms. but deleted by Bobbs-Merrill because of the decision to delimitate all illustrations to keep the price of the book down, was a cartoon from a Mexico City paper at the time of Krushchev's unseating. It shows two men walking past the JFK grave at Arlington and discussing the latest headlines. One says to the other, "What a barbaric way to remove a head of government!" or something to that effect, of course referring to Krushchev.

I imagine Salandria would be quite excited about your "Straw" but I hope that he will resist the temptation to issue instantaneous charges against Rusk, Bundy, etc. as the architects of the assassination. I have the impression that he regards inferential logic as no less conclusive than material proof; and that his ability to evaluate material proof or evidence fluctuates according to whether it comes out of New Orleans or out of the Warren Commission.

My best to you and May; why not drop in and visit soon? I'd like to see you both again. Short notice is okay.

Sincerely,