3 July 1968

Dear Kerry,

Returned herewith, as requested, are the two enclosures to your letter of 29 June.

You may use the quoted statement, but there is a grammatical error which might be corrected if you intend to re-type, e.g., "...to which no one is entitled and for which one cannot escape.."

Also, to clarify that I do not mean all critics, the penultimate line might be changed to read: "are endowed but which some of them have relegated..."

So far as I am concerned, your "rightwingism" is irrelevant. I am interested only in the evidence, or lack thereof, in any criminal charge, not in the political leanings of the accused. I did not "defend" Lee Harvey Oswald because he was, or was said to be, a Leftist. I would not decline to protest an injustice to anyone on grounds of political beliefs which I do not share. I do not wish to influence your course of action, but it seems to me that you should not have to justify your political affiliations or any legal actions or activities (such as your having contacted the FBI), since the justification would seem to imply that the questions are relevant and legitimate, when they are not. The only issue is whether or not you committed perjury with respect to a specific set of circumstances.

I do not hear from Harold Weisberg at all. David Lifton did send me a copy of his letter to Open City but as I wrote David, I merely scanned it. I found long ago that it is unproductive to try to change Harold's mind about anything, once he has invested belief and emotion in a particular point of view. He and I seem to functioniin two completely different wavelengths of discourse, with no genuine communication or dialogue possible.

As for Eric Norden, he did give me the distinct impression when we last talked on the phone, perhaps 5 or 6 weeks ago, that his enthusiasm for Garrison had decreased somewhat. I cannot say whether that is really so or whether he was only being diplomatic, knowing as he does my strong feelings on the subject.

Let me add, by the way, that any comments which I make on particular individuals, such as those on Weisberg and on Norden above, or in any future letters, are not for quotation. I do not want the issues to be reduced to a back-biting or personal level, nor do I regard myself as part of a group animated against the Garrison camp. I am against Garrison and his claque but as an individual, responsible only for my own views and actions. As such, I do not intend to become embroiled in controversies on a personality level, and I do not intend to "organize" with others, who may hold similar views on Garrison but pursue modes of expression or action which may not be acceptable to me. My bitter disappointment in some of the critics who were my closest colleagues and friends has persuaded me of the wisdom of being "a loner" and of abjuring "alliances," as a general principle. I hope that this elaboration of my position makes it clear that I am not maintaining distance from you, from Kerry Thornley personally, but from any and all individuals or groups likely to inhibit my freedom of action

or to impose a presumed partnership or corporate relationship which I did not envisage and do not seek. I realize that my first letter to you may have been susceptible to an interpretation beyond its literal contents, so this is perhaps the occasion to clarify that I undertook the narrow commitment of giving you such financial aid as was within my means, and of making your situation known to certain individuals, and no more than that. There are many, many demands upon my time and attention--in terms of my work on the Warren Report, to say nothing of my job and other unrelated responsibilities--and there is hardly ever an instance in which I am able to do as much as I should like, ideally, to do.

I rely upon your understanding and assure you that I am in no sense withdrawing interest or concern but only indicating the rather narrow limits within which I can function. Those limits exclude any embroilment with Weisberg, Penn Jones, or other adversaries and/or champions of Garrison or his victims.

By the way, did anyone other than Arnoni respond to the appeal for financial assistance to you? I suspect not, and that is disappointing.

All the best,

Yours sincerely,