

26 February 1969

Dear Harold,

Just a hasty note to thank you for your letter of the 23rd and the various enclosures.

About your inquiry: I have no recollection of "Gege Shufer" or "Cochise." I don't believe I have ever seen either name anywhere.

Well, Harold, we are finally in perfect agreement again on one thing, and that is that we both characterize New Orleans as a disaster. Your news sources notwithstanding, I fail to see how the Frazier debacle COULD have been worse than it was. I am heart-sick and the fact that I have been warning that just this would happen, for almost two years, makes it no less painful by a single iota to watch helplessly while the long hard work of the critics is systematically misused, wasted, and nullified. If I were of the same turn of mind as those of our colleagues who see everything in terms of a Macchievellian plot, I would be able to build up a strong case for the thesis that the whole Garrison affair has been nothing but a brilliant strategem to destroy and discredit all criticism of the WR, and to regain for the WR all the ground it had lost, under the pretense of being the foremost challenger of the Report and the Establishment.

But I don't think for a minute that Garrison is a "plant" cleverly pursuing an ingenious CIA plan--I think he achieved all the results postulated but did it gratuitously, out of his inherent lack of intellectual and moral quality.

I would not discourage you at all from doing a book. Indeed, I think you should go swiftly and firmly on record, if only to preserve your credibility as a critic of the WR and your future effectiveness. I suppose the ultra-loyalists will find some rationalization or other to preserve their illusions and justify the unjustifiable and unforgivable performance of their total Here...but I will not waste my time or yours by expatiating on that degree of contemptible folly. I am sure you will find a better title than any that occurs to me--How the Jelly Green Giant turned out to be nothing but a suicidal rodent at the moment of truth.

Must rush,

All the best,