

14 May 1969

Mr. Edward R. Williams
200 East 66 Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

My dear Mr. Williams,

Thank you for your kind letter of the 12th. I appreciated it all the more because I am not accustomed to approbative references to my position on Garrison. Indeed, your letter is perhaps the only one I have ever received which did not reproach or attack me for my opposition to Garrison, even after events fully vindicated my views. Almost all the WR critics who aided and abetted the New Orleans district attorney in the first instance remain, even in the face of his mortifying fiasco, firmly (if unhappily) in his camp.

It is true that those critics did everything they could to help Garrison's "investigation" but his investigative ability was so appallingly deficient, and his judgment so lurid and erratic, that he went off in all directions capriciously, without any real sustained, methodical effort. In no sense was any genuine investigation conducted. Certainly, it is not possible to preclude the existence of new evidence, in New Orleans or elsewhere, but the self-evident difficulty of uncovering such new material has been compounded by the fear or disgust that Garrison undoubtedly generated among persons who may be potentially helpful.

While I seldom, if ever, find occasion for agreement with Mr. Flammonde, I am inclined to concur in his comment that Garrison never really expected the Shaw trial to take place. I have good reason to believe that Garrison wanted to get all the mileage that he could get out of his sensational "disclosures" without ever having to back them up in court, in the hope that federal intervention or sudden death would relieve him of the burden of pressing his charges before a judge and jury. He knew and his staff knew that he had no case whatever, but he proceeded to pillory his victim in order to profit from headlines and the intoxication of being the center of controversy. Garrison's ruthlessness, combined with his awesome stupidity, has of course compromised the critics who pandered to him and WR criticism in general, which now bores and irritates most people. I am quite despondent about the situation, and therefore am all the more grateful for your very generous remarks about my work.

With thanks and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12 Street
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