

30 August 1970

Dear Mr. Williams,

I do appreciate the L.A. Free Press clippings that you sent me with your letter of the 27th, as I have not been receiving the Free Press for some time and would otherwise have missed the two "stories." Thanks so much.

Unfortunately, it is true that the WR critics have engaged in much internecine warfare. Even in the early days, some critics showed great jealousy of their supposed prerogatives and supremacy and indulged themselves in bitter quarrels and misunderstandings in which their self-interest, even venality, became evident. In those days, I exerted considerable effort in attempting to be a peacemaker and to ensure unity and cooperation. Much good it did!

Then Garrison entered the scene. A major and inevitable split took place between one group of critics--the majority--who elected to ally themselves with Garrison come what might, and a small minority (then consisting solely of Sauvage and myself) who could stomach that stupid and evil man even less than the Warren Commission. This was not a matter of bickering but a question of fundamental principle, which led to a total break in communication which persists to this day and is really irreversible. (I do have limited contacts with some disillusioned ex-supporters of Garrison, but not with the major critics who were my closest friends until 1967.)

Yet, if those old schisms were not enough, I frequently receive news of dissension, bitter antagonisms stopping just short of fistfighting, among various researchers, both old-timers and those who more recently joined the ranks. Even more disgraceful have been incidents of outright filching of materials, lies, double-dealing, pervasive secrecy on large and small matters, and financial chicanery. I have personally been bilked of large sums of money by two different "colleagues", and it is possible to count on the fingers of one hand those who are neither corrupt nor deranged.

I spent ten days at Dallas earlier this month, visiting some critics there whom I knew only by correspondence initiated only a few months ago. These Dallasites, although of somewhat conservative political complexion, were most open with their findings and materials and refreshingly unconcerned with glory or profits. They are disposed to a Castro-Communist conspiracy theory but not closed-minded, and they were very helpful to me in showing me all the sites and scenes involved in the case, and re-enacting the known or assumed movements of the principals. It was therefore a valuable and interesting visit.

I am always glad to hear from you. With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

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