

ASSASSINATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

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NOT A TIME FOR SILENCE

If this issue of the AIC Newsletter has a theme, it is the problem of silence. Our own silence over the past couple of weeks is easily explained by one bothersome word: Time. For us, putting out this Newsletter is necessarily a part-time activity, and sometimes it has to be put aside while we meet the demands of our various professions. We apologize for the delay.

But there is a silence of another sort. There is the silence that Jim Lawrence, Radio News Director at KHT in Los Angeles, speaks of in the very fine letter which we are reprinting here. It is the silence of the general press. Perhaps the statement by Morris Rubin, editor of The Progressive, that he will not only publish but will give "a very special ride" to evidence of Administration cover-up provides a glimmer of hope for breaking this silence. We hope the Critics will take up Mr. Rubin's challenge.

There is also the new silence of ex-crusaders like Elliot Mintz-- formerly with KPEK-FM, now with KLAC-- who says it is all over and we might as well give up. Is it all over? The most disturbing silence of all is that which exists at present in New Orleans. Has Garrison, too, given up? We don't think so. We suspect that he has only changed his tactics. We are sure that he would agree that as far as the rest of us are concerned, it is not a time for silence.

Prescott S. Nichols

HAROLD WEISBERG TO SPEAK OUT IN SAN DIEGO

Harold Weisberg, prolific author of the Whitewash series and Oswald In New Orleans, arrives in San Diego this month to speak under the sponsorship of the Assassination Inquiry Committee. Weisberg has been one of the sentinel critics from the outset, whose careful research and dynamic presentations have brought the story of the conspiracy to millions of Americans. (Readers will recall his timely and forceful piece in our "war" issue challenging Epstein's position vis-a-vis Garrison.) On the morning of March 3, 1967, the Washington Post told its half million readers, "The scenario guiding New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison in his investigation of President Kennedy's assassination... is Garrison's, but the script apparently started with Harold Weisberg, former Senate investigator and author of Whitewash."

Garrison, in his introduction to Weisberg's Oswald in New Orleans, has stated, "The question now is whether we have the courage to come face to face with ourselves and admit that something is wrong, whether we have the will to insist on an end to deception and concealment with regard to the execution of John Kennedy-- or whether we will let the official fairy tale be told and re-told until the truth itself fades into a vagrant rumor and finally dies forever." The Assassination Inquiry Committee is pleased to present Harold Weisberg to help dispel this "official fairy tale" and elucidate the dimensions of the conspiracy before the people of San Diego.

(next page for details)

Mr. Weisberg will deliver two major lectures here. The first will be on Monday evening, October 28, at the University of California San Diego in the Revelle College Cafeteria from 8 to 11 PM. His second appearance will be at San Diego State College, from 8 to 10 PM, in Social Sciences Room 100, in conjunction with the experimental college series described later in the Newsletter. Both talks will include question and answer periods. Admission is free and all are invited. Weisberg will also appear twice on Channel 8 TV (CBS in San Diego), at 3 PM on Oct. 28 on the Bob Dale Show, and at 8 AM on Oct. 29 on the Sun Up Show. Finally, he will be featured on KPRI-FM (106.5) for a free-wheeling session, including telephone call-in and comment by listeners, starting at 11:30 PM on Oct. 28.

We look ahead eagerly to these events and know many Southern Californians will participate with us. A. George Abbott, M.D.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gentlemen:

For several weeks I have been reading your newsletter with increasing interest. You are to be commended for your consistently objective, lucid presentation of facts and speculation regarding the assassination. I was particularly impressed by that portion of volume 1, number 4 devoted to the silent press. In that connection you may be interested in the following stories:

Our news department was instrumental in bringing Mr. Garrison to Los Angeles for his appearance on November 14, 1967. That night and the following day, we broadcast an account of his speech and excerpts from it. However, not one word cleared the national wires. It seemed to us odd that such serious allegations by any duly-elected chief law enforcement officer of a major jurisdiction (let alone Jim Garrison, by then an international celebrity) should be ignored. We began trying to learn why it was so. After several days of being put off, we were told by a leading news agency executive that Garrison's allegations were "too hot". The executive reminded us that his business is highly competitive, and he could not afford to see his Washington news sources "dry up".

On December 14, I flew to Albuquerque to record Mr. Garrison's speech at the University of New Mexico. The address was reported in Los Angeles only on KHJ, to my knowledge. On May 13, Mr. Garrison spoke to students at American University, the scene of President Kennedy's famous nuclear test ban speech of June, 1963. Mr. Garrison drew the National States' Rights Party into the conspiracy and amplified his charges against the government. The speech was never covered by the general press.

One week earlier I had interviewed Mr. Garrison in his New Orleans office. During our discussion, he offered to make his files available to Congress for the purpose of a full Congressional investigation. We reported this offer with great excitement. Other media overlooked the offer, and continued to attack Garrison for alleged "personal opportunism". In that same interview, Mr. Garrison charged that the war machine would not allow anyone who could end the Vietnam conflict to live. Thirty days later, I watched in stunned belief as Dallas became Los Angeles- Parkland became Good Samaritan- Jack became Bobby. "What will it take", Garrison had asked me in May, "to wake the people up?"

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