

30 October 1967

Mr. M. S. Aronson
Editor
The Minority of One
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

Dear Menahan,

Please forgive me for reverting again to what must have become for you as well as for others a tedious variation on a peccayune theme--the status of William Gurvich before his defection from the service of the New Orleans district attorney.

You will recall that in my letter of 10 October 1967 I referred to six persons who had told me after visiting New Orleans that Gurvich was Garrison's chief investigator. Subsequently, you informed me that you had received a letter from Harold Weisberg asserting that Gurvich was never the chief investigator. On or about the same day, I received a telephone call from Tom Bethell disclaiming any suggestion that he had told me or had any reason to believe that Gurvich was chief investigator.

Because I had had no reason to make a written record of the information given to me by visitors returning from New Orleans as to the title or functions of Mr. Gurvich, the disclaimers by Messrs. Bethell and Weisberg suggested to me that my recollection may have been faulty. Certainly I did not question their good faith in denying the statements that I, also in good faith, had attributed to them. Therefore, I immediately sent you a letter of retraction dated 14 October 1967, with copies to Messrs. Garrison, Bethell, and Weisberg. This retraction stands, so far as Tom Bethell is concerned.

However, in the case of Harold Weisberg, I have just reached page 371 of his latest book, Oswald in New Orleans, on which he states in paragraph 2, "The burglary actually took place, according to Garrison's chief aide, Private Investigator William Gurvich..." Perhaps you will agree with me that the difference between "chief investigator" and "chief aide" in the context of the Garrison investigation is purely technical and that Mr. Weisberg has, in effect, corroborated my assertion in its substance (although I will not insist that he told me verbally what he now acknowledges in his own printed words). Although I grudge the time expended on this trifling issue, necessitated by the attempt which has been made to downgrade the role of Gurvich after the embarrassment of his defection, I thought this letter necessary for the sake of the record. Copies will, of course, go to Messrs. Garrison, Bethell, and Weisberg.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Hoagber
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