

HW: 7dec72

Re your memo on the Lanny Thomas story in the States-Item of 21nov72 about ~~Shaw~~ Shaw, the only direct quotes from Shaw indicate he is talking about the judicial system, not the federal administration. References to the federal government all are in indirect quotes, suggesting that the confusion, if it exists, could be in Thomas' mind, not Shaw's. As you say, Shaw is an experienced and sophisticated man and unlikely to make such a mistake, even in a payoff statement. Thomas, judging by his picture which appears sometimes with his byline, is apparently very young. His byline has been appearing only a year or so, and he writes generally on education. The indirect quote you note where he says "Shaw said his faith in the federal government was reinforced by its intervention to protect his rights" may be something of a New Orleans Freudian slip by Thomas, based on the common attitude toward the feds, rather than an accurate reflection of what Shaw actually said.

On the other hand, where Shaw defends the Warren Report and derides its critics he goes much too far, as you say. But considering the issues at his trial, this can be a self-serving statement to bolster his own image as it emerged from the trial, rather than a payoff. I don't say it can't be a payoff, but, if it is, it ~~sits~~ sits on thin ice. Generally the defenders of the faith are just as happy to forget about the Warren Report.

I do agree with your other points, that Shaw is talking the Mitchell-Burger line, and that the arson fire in the Rault Center looks very much as if someone could be feeling their oats. I suppose the next thing to expect is an explosion at Shilstone's chemical plant or some disaster to Robertson's VW importing business. I think you suggested long ago that these three faced a pretty rough future.

jdw