

PHONE: ---?--- Jim Garrison was on the "Tonight" show a couple of nights ago and Johnny Carson played the Devil's Advocate and Jim Garrison said that there was no evidence to indicate Oswald participated in the assassination but he did indicate that Ruby was implicated by several witnesses. Now, did you, did you, did you come to this conclusion? And, also, oh, I had this, can't ---

RUARK: Well, let's leave it with that.

KERRY: Yeah. That's a pretty big question right there. I'll tell you what, I haven't come to any, any real conclusions because, once again, I have not considered the whole thing that important; with my particular semi-anarchistic political views, I consider it more the normal course of events for the government to cover up things and to lie about them than for it to tell the truth about them. And I believe the government lied about the attack on Pearl Harbor.

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There was a man who called up after Mr. Weisberg spoke and went down this big list of things, that, well, if you wanted to, you could look into this and you could look into that. Well, almost every one of those things, I think there was a cover-up involved, including the Lincoln assassination. But, the point is, I think governments always say whatever is politically most expedient and I think in a democracy they have to lie more because they are dependant on the votes of the people to stay in office. So, if anything, dictatorships are, if more ruthless, more, also, somewhat more honest at times.

But the, so I haven't been following it closely enough. One of the critics of the Commission contacted me shortly after my book came out and showed me the 26 volumes because in my book I had assumed that Oswald was guilty. And I mentioned that it was an assumption in the book, that I did operate on that assumption in so far as I even tried to figure out what was going through his head at the time he committed the assassination. And this critic of the Commission showed his set of the 26 volumes and, gee whiz, after one evening I was a critic of the Commission but never a very earnest one and never a very scholarly one and I have no theories as to Oswald's innocence or guilt. I believe that Jack Ruby was certainly one of the most mysterious, the questions around him are bigger and harder to answer, it seems, than around anyone else. These, all kinds of inexplicable little contradictions and details in the testimony about him and so forth. But I really don't know, in answer to your question, sir.

RUARK: Alright. Thank you for calling. Goodnight. Good evening. Open Mike. Hello. Hello. Are you there? O.K., we've got a little foul-up on the lines, I guess, so if you want to get in, you can still make it if you start dialling now 229-7976 in Tampa, 525-2131 in St. Petersburg, and address your questions to our guest, Kerry Thornley, who will soon be when do you have to testify before the grand jury in New Orleans, Kerry?

KERRY: Well, provided I don't come up with a legal out, I'll have to be down there on the eighth or the ninth and ---

RUARK: That's of this month?

KERRY: Yeah.

RUARK: Oops. We're talking about Thursday --

KERRY: Pretty soon.

RUARK: -- and Friday of this week, huh?

KERRY: Yeah.

RUARK: Now, that will be in New Orleans and you've already testified, of course, to a -- where was you first questioned when the Warren Commission Report was being, or the Warren Commission was investigating?

Kerry W. Thornley interview, 5 February 1968, WLCY radio "Open Mike" program. 10:30 P.M. - 12:30 A.M.