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Editor
Times-Picayune
3800 Howard Ave.
New Orleans LA 70140-3342

Dear Editor:

Most of my time in New Orleans during what the papers referred to as Garrison's "probe" was spent trying to learn what I could about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Like many others, I assumed that Garrison, a district attorney, would not take anything involving a presidential assassination to court without having a case.

I also erred in believing that what he was saying publicly was in response to official efforts to frustrate what he was doing. When, also belatedly, I came to realize that he was confusing and misleading the people, I spent a considerable amount of time in what one of his staff lawyers who helped me in it correctly referred to as "damage control." Among other things I did prevent his charging Perrin and the living and thus I did not name the alleged "hobo" whose name I give you but not for use, Edgar Eugene Bradley.

In this submission I fear you may find too long - and if it interests you and you want to cut it, feel free - I could not begin to tell your readers the truth about all Stone's untruths. Sadly, this much-honored man can't tell the truth even by accident. I've been keeping a record for the archive I leave for history.

I omitted one of his grossest lies in the hope that, as I suggested to Dave Snyder, you would consult your morgue and do your own story.

The autopsy pictures and X-rays were not denied Garrison, as Stone says. Garrison filed suit in District of Columbia Superior Court for them. I spent the night and early morning of the day of the hearing before Judge Halleck analyzing the frustrated "surprise" evidence, the suppressed report of the panel of forensic experts convoked by the Department of Justice. I had to be able to prepare the pathologist who was Garrison's expert witness. He could not be there until just before the hearing began. That report, by the way, reproduced in facsimile in my "Post Mortem," completely destroys the basis of the official solution. And, oddly, Garrison made no use of it at all!)

I sat at the counsel table with Garrison's lawyer, Numa Bertel.

The incredible truth is the opposite of what Stone says: Garrison won the suit to have that corpus delicti evidence produced for his trial and abandoned it that very day, alleging another of his fantasies, that it was all a CIA plot to derail him!

I have enough of a file to show that I did prevent Garrison's planned additional desecration of the fifth assassination anniversary to show that I did do it and how.

For your information only, because I do not want to involve any who might be damaged by it, Andrew "Moo" Sciambra and Louis Ivon, then chief investigator, helped me. Ivon sent his police investigators out to get for me what I needed. I have copies of the investigation Frank Meloche made at Mercy Hospital, where the suicide was taken, and of the handwritten morgue book, which could not be faked and which Garrison never bothered to have checked. He preferred his fiction that the body of a Venezuelan seaman was substituted for Perrin's and that Perrin was a Grassy Knoll assassin using the name "Starr."

I am 78, in seriously impaired health for a decade, which prevented my writing more books based on those many records I got by FOIA litigation, some of which established precedents and one of which got the Congress to amend the investigatory files exemption in 1964. Because of these limitations I have been devoting my time to trying to keep an honest and accurate record of what is known about the assassination and its investigations and of all the many commercializations and exploitations so that as much as possible of the truth will be available for our history. All I have will be a permanent, public archive at local Hood College.

I have no ulterior or hidden purpose in what I submit. When Garrison's book appeared, I annotated it for history but said not a word publicly.

But with the enormous audience the Stone movie will influence, regarding what he is combining with Garrison to perpetrate as monstrous and evil, I do take this time.

To the degree possible I will provide any documentation you may want to support this submission.

None of your reporters knew me well. I was, before writing six books on the JFK assassination and one on that of Dr. King - none advancing any theories at all - a reporter, an investigative reporter, a Senate investigator and editor, and in World War II, beginning in OSS, I was an intelligence analyst also used as a trouble-shooter investigator.

If you have a Washington bureau, any reporter is welcome here at almost any time and can have unsupervised, unrestricted access to all these FOIA records and to any other information I have subject only to the protection of the rights of innocents.

We are not much over an hour from Washington, depending on the starting point and traffic.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Frederick, MD

Letter to the Editor;

The Washington Post cited me as the source of the script of Oliver Stone's trivializing the great national tragedy of the JFK assassination. To the Post he referred to me as a thief, to you (6/27/91) as a "pirate". Both are false. In order to persuade Warner Brothers to give him a reported \$40 million for his commercialization, exploitation, self-aggrandizement and for other purposes, he gave out a reported hundreds of copies of that cheap, sensationalizing script.

Typical of all he has said since the Post exposed what he is up to, what Stone wrote is not tainted by truth. He makes it up as he goes when what was already invented does not suit him.

"But all the district attorney's files were stolen and turned over to Shaw's defense counsel before the trial began," in Stone's fabrication. I know. I was there and saw those files for the first three days of that trial.

Garrison's version is that they were stolen and sold to the CIA so he could not base his "On the Trail of the Assassins," the basis of Stone's movie, on them.

Garrison had to have some explanation for the utter worthlessness of all he invented, all the irrational, self-seeking and zany nonwitnesses' statements along with what he made up that was in those files. He dared not use that junk in his book's effort to explain away his monumental fiasco of his Shaw conspiracy case.

Garrison "was sabotaged by the federal government," Stone writes. Garrison himself eliminated any such need with his wild proclamations of endless theories, often self-contradictory and none proven. He was his own worst enemy.

While it is true that Garrison's efforts to extradite those Stone magnifies into "key witnesses," they were "witnesses" to nothing and Garrison failed to justify their extradition. In one case, where Loran Eugene Hall successfully fought extradition from California, I flew there, persuaded him to go to New

Orleans, Garrison got nothing of any relevance from him and did not use him as a witness.

"The government has yet to release crucial evidence in its possession," Stone protests, thus flaunting both his permeating ignorance of fact about the assassination and its investigation and his own contempt for truth. If he were not so ignorant of fact and so devoted to the weird collection of fantastic theories he regularly represents as "all that has come to light," he would know that there is no such "crucial evidence" because the government did not investigate the crime itself and never intended to. [Editor: documentary proof on request.]

As Stone and that strange collection of Dallas oddballs and nuts he hired as "experts" knowing that they had already palmed off on him the indecent and transparently false story of a son who proclaimed his father an assassin know, by a series of Freedom of Information lawsuits I got and make available to all writers about a quarter of a million pages of once-withheld government JFK assassination records. He has had no interest in them.

Used to getting away with anything at all that he says no matter how obviously untrue, Stone wrote that "The Washington Post published my lengthy point-by-point refutation of" the alleged "errors" in the George Lardner story that exposed him.

If not because he knew he was just making^{up} his "refutation" Stone knew when he got my June 3 letter, well before he wrote you, that he "refuted" nothing and that there was no error in Lardner's story, for which I, not the CIA as Stone has alleged, was the source.

In what he with his bare face hanging out had the audacity to describe as "the higher truth," one of the many examples of his deliberate dishonesty in this fictional "refutation," he said of what he referred to as "the hobo photos" that those unidentified men were "arrested" about "25-30 minutes after the shooting -

not 90 as Lardner claimed - and they were taken off a train behind the Book Depository, not from the other side of Dealey Plaza."

When he wrote this, Stone knew it was not true. When I learned that he was basing his movie on Garrison's entirely undependable and not infrequently knowingly false book, I wrote Stone on February 8, warning him that he was about to "play Mack Sennett in a Keystone Kops Pink Panther" and then gave him about 4,500 words of proof and offered more. He did not respond. Instead, he later shot from a script he knew to be a fraud against history and an imposition on the trust of the sorrowing people who would see his movie.

This included an account of my having to have two professional investigations made of those so-called "hobos." It was to prevent Garrison's commemoration of the fifth assassination anniversary - with no proof at all - by charging as additional assassins one of those men for whom Garrison invented a false identification and Robert Perrin, who had killed himself in 1962 - in New Orleans!

These independent investigations both established that those men were winos drinking away in an empty railroad boxcar parked far from the depository building, behind the Central Annex Post Office. It is a block west of the depository building and more than two blocks south of it. The only way to walk those men away to dry out was past the depository building. There news photographers snapped them along with everything else that moved.

The merest glance at these pictures shows that the men were not handcuffed and none of the officers had a gun out. Assassins? They were not arrested. They were only drunks. armed only with drink where they could not have been assassins.

Of the innumerable misuses of those innocent men that began with Garrison's many concoctions, when one was in the King assassination investigation, I gave copies of those pictures to our local FBI agent. This caused it to investigate.

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I offered Stone a copy of the FBI's report which entirely destroys his "higher truth" three weeks before he wrote you. He has not asked for that report.

The FBI identified and interviewed the two police officers and one deputy sheriff in the photos. All confirmed that the men were not arrested. They located the hoaxcar even further down the tracks from the depository building.

Garrison, bright, able, sometimes charismatic and eloquent, is his own kind of American tragedy for his flawed and failed exploitation of the great national tragedy. He did not even prove a conspiracy to the jury that believed there had been one.

Not content to let this wretched affair lay dead, he revived it in the indecency of his book that has no contact with reality and, as I proved in my February 8 letter to Stone, includes instance after instance of what he knew was not true.

Stone, sensing the possibilities for personal profit and additional honors from exploiting this sick book, added to its gross misrepresentation of the known fact of the assassination those of Jim Marrs' compendium of all the zany theories, "Crossfire." Marrs can't even reproduce these wild theories without innumerable errors except when plagiarizing (sample included) and, not satisfied with these desecrations of the tragedy, includes some of his own fabrication. [Samples on request.]

What Stone has done is obscene, referring to those who invented these untenable theories as "scholars" and "investigators," and timing his self- and movie-promotions to also promote his then-released and also-criticized movie "Doors" by unabashedly telling the world that, out of his "love" for JFK, his movie would record the "history" and would tell the people "who" killed their President, "how" and "why." He repeated this as recently as when interviewed by David Baron for "Lagniappe." (5/24/91)

Inevitably his movie will deceive and mislead more people than anything since the Warren Report. It will undermine all legitimate criticism of the official mythology and, because he has represented it as factual when it is not, it will have the effect of protecting the official miscreants who saw to it that this terrible tragedy would be unsolved.

And he has the colossal gall to title this miserable business "JFK"!