

December 14, 1991

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Old Receiver Road  
Frederick, MD

Dear Harold:

I hope that you <sup>and Lillian</sup> have a nice Holiday Season.

I am exhausted, trying to finish so that I can go to my family in Illinois for Christmas. Also been so ill with the sinus infection.

Enclosed is the first cut at the chapter on Garrison/Stone. Mind you, I have not even been able to reread it. Mailing it today so that you will have it on Monday.

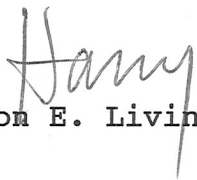
Please make comments in the margins. If you can say more that you want me to quote, please write it out. I don't think I can go into much more detail on the case, do you? I'll have to see what the editor says.

I do need this right away.

I am not going to keep the sentence that quotes you on Dan Rather's show which I comment is too convoluted. That is must me blowing off steam, but it would help if you could make it clearer.

I plan to write more about Stone, and I have been asked to review the movie at the end of this chapter.

Very best wishes to you and Lillian,

  
Harrison E. Livingstone

CHAPTER  
THE GARRISON AFFAIR  
AND THE OLIVER STONE FILM

Lee Harvey Oswald was born and grew up in New Orleans. He still had family there in 1962, and when he returned from the Soviet Union, he went to live and work in New Orleans, then for a time moved to Ft. Worth and Dallas, then returned to New Orleans in 1963 where he remained until not long before he allegedly killed President Kennedy.<sup>1</sup> As a high school student years before, Oswald was in a Civil Air Patrol group in New Orleans who's leader was one David Ferrie, a person who forever afterward figured prominently in possible conspiracy scenarios of the assassination.

Oswald, upon arrest in Dallas an hour after the assassination, was taken to jail, where he went unrepresented by a lawyer until the moment of his death. He tried to obtain a lawyer, and for whatever reason, it was claimed <sup>by</sup> that Dean Andrews in New Orleans received a call from a "Clay Bertrand" who asked him to go to Dallas and represent Oswald.<sup>2</sup>

In the period leading up to the assassination, Ferrie, an enigmatic and mysterious figure, was closely connected to Carlos Marcello of New Orleans, the Mafia chiefton for all of the South, not including Florida. Attorney General Robert Kennedy,

*alibi  
if not  
false*

the fiercest enemy the Mafia and the Teamsters ever had in the United States, had previously <sup>deported</sup> removed Marcello from the United States without due process. <sup>Return</sup> Ferrie had flown Marcello back, and they were in court at the moment Kennedy was assassinated, winning an acquittal that day on immigration and other charges. It was later alleged that the District Attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, and some of his staff, had connections to Marcello and the Teamsters.

*Ferrie wasn't*

Ferrie was also deeply involved with the CIA's operations against Cuba, flew planes for them, trained and armed guerillas, was a priest in a heretical Catholic church, and indulged in other aberrant behavior often involving young boys and men. In fact, he tried to pick up this author in my younger days one of the times when I lived in the French Quarter. Ferrie also worked for a former FBI agent, Guy Banister. He had been an excellent pilot for Eastern Airlines until he was fired for an arrest on a morals charge. I remember him as an intense and sinister, cynical, disgusting individual who was excited at the prospect of preying upon the vulnerable, the helpless, and the innocent, if possible--virgin.

*false*

Banister had his office at 544 Camp Street, which was the same small building where Lee Harvey Oswald claimed to locate his Fair Play For Cuba Committee Operations in late 1963, though with the address of 4907 Magazine Street stamped on the pamphlets Oswald was handing out. Magazine Street crossed Camp

*it doesn't*

Street on the corner where the building was, which had doors opening on both streets. In June of 1963, Oswald handed out his leaflets on the dock where the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Wasp was berthed.

*absolutely false*

*false. He was a disservice agency*

One can only conclude from the available evidence that Oswald operated out of Banister's office. Banister had been in the Office of Naval Intelligence during World War II, and he had been the chief of the FBI's Chicago office. He was primarily engaged in counterintelligence operations in the New Orleans area, and that basically meant that he spied on Leftists and pointed provocateurs at them, of whom Oswald was obviously one. At the same time, arms and ammunition passed through his office, destined for the exiled Cubans who continually prepared attacks on Cuba and hoped for an invasion.

*reason not really credited*

On the day of the assassination of President Kennedy, for unaccounted reasons, Ferrie drove in one of the worst rainstorms on record to Houston, Texas, with two other men, Alvin Beauboeuf and Melvin Coffey, and then to Galveston and waited two hours in a skating rink to receive a phone call. Meanwhile, Jack Martin, an investigator who also worked for Banister, became deeply disturbed after a fight and pistol whipping from Banister and went to the police in New Orleans. He told them that David Ferrie was probably involved in the assassination, that Ferrie knew Oswald well and had taught him to shoot with a telescopic sight.

*lack of citations significant & conspicuous 3*

Martin, though a drinker, was credible, and when Ferrie returned on November 24th, he was arrested along with his roommate Layton Martens and questioned. An FBI agent, who apparently had been sent or went to Dallas the preceding days after the assassination, Regis Kennedy, came in to question Ferrie. *not so*

*not so* Kennedy then got Ferrie off, and although the matter was mentioned by the Warren Commission<sup>3</sup>, it was dropped. *never pursued* It is worthwhile to note that Regis Kennedy had a laissez faire attitude towards Carlos Marcello, whom Ferrie also worked for, *false* and who was conveniently in a court room at the moment Kennedy was shot. The FBI man was often at meetings in 1961 of anti-Castro Cubans, and was deeply involved in that entire effort in *false* our history.

*Shaw & lives here and Beverly was not in Dallas* Gary Shaw tells me that Regis Kennedy has been identified by Beverly Oliver as the FBI agent who took her movie camera and film away from her the day after the assassination.<sup>4</sup> She stood alongside the car and filmed it as the President was shot, but the film has disappeared from the evidence. She knew Jack Ruby well. *false*

*no source - not me - FBI's fabrication - said his writing from the jail - set for 17 - what exactly I* Three years passed. The Warren Commission performed its show investigation and issued the cover-up theory known as its Report. Then one day in November of 1966, Senator Russell B. Long of Louisiana was riding tourist class on an airplane with the District Attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, who had

*Garrison's lie + you  
are no source*

always been troubled by the arrest of David Ferrie. Long expressed his severe doubts about the findings of the Commission, just as the prominent Congressman from Louisiana, Hale Boggs, was doing, and Boggs had been one of the seven men on the Commission. Long also had ties to the Teamsters, and led an effort to get Jimmy Hoffa, the president of the Teamsters Union, out of the jail Robert Kennedy had finally succeeded putting him in. Hoffa and the Teamsters were at that time and for many years synonymous with the Mafia.

*Source accurate*

Garrison said he was troubled by indications that the plot to kill the President had been hatched in New Orleans, and he suspected that some of those involved were still there.

*fiction*

Garrison, normally highly visible, <sup>not so</sup> went into seclusion and hit <sup>what books?</sup> the books. He studied the case against Oswald and concluded that

*This is not  
good + I think  
not really  
accurate*

Oswald not only didn't do it, but that there were several <sup>much later</sup> gunmen, one of whom was in the sewer alongside the car, and two in front, and that there was a plot by the CIA Cuban group partly based in New Orleans, led by someone named Clem Bertrand, that killed the President. How Clem Bertrand became Clay Shaw has never been documented.

*Did he  
truthfully  
tell them?  
good a  
source as  
some;*

For what followed, Scott Van Wynesberghe writes in The Third Decade that a "malevolent force", which involved the Teamsters, hung over it all.<sup>5</sup> Van Wynesberghe details the Teamsters connections of some of those on Garrison's staff, and even one of the judges involved in the case.

Garrison put some of the people in his District Attorney's office to work on the Kennedy assassination, and spent about \$8000 when word leaked out on how he was spending the taxpayer's money. A lot of people had assumed that the Warren Report had closed the case and for that reason wanted to let sleeping dogs lie. As Senator Long--one of his staunch supporters was later to say, Garrison had a perfect right to do what he was doing--conduct a criminal investigation into the assassination. In fact, when it later came to a hearing, a three judge panel summarily threw out the Warren Report, refusing to admit it into evidence.

*not a leak*

But Garrison was already in a another kind of trouble. Plenty of people that did not want the case investigated, and there was a ravenous media that would seize upon such a thing and bring it out into the open into the public eye before the investigation could bear fruit, even if it was on the up and up. Everyone knows that the guilty will run away when they find out that they are wanted. In the sad history that followed, the glare of the public spotlight somewhat unbalanced Garrison and those who worked for him, so that mistakes were made, and their hand was forced. One of his staff, for instance, told Ferrie in advance what was going on.

*no hurry  
no money  
& also  
parked*

In those days it was often the practice to surprise a defendant with unexpected witnesses or evidence in a criminal proceeding, in spite of the decisions in this country that

*What  
does this  
relate to  
I know of  
no  
performance*

defendants have a full right of discovery and disclosure. They have the right to face their accusers and prepare a defense. From the beginning of the Garrison affair, the often obscure failures and conflicts in prosecutorial methods in our system of jurisprudence was at the root of a certain amount of the nightmare and sensationalism that followed. One might bring into this discussion the matter of ethics, since the same questions arose to a certain extent over the Oliver Stone film made in 1991 about the Garrison/Clay Shaw case, though no-one really noted the question of ethics as a root cause of some of the trouble.

*What are you talking about?*

*What are you talking about? How is it in the movie?*

In addition, before going on, it is worth noting that if there never really was a case against the ultimate defendant in Garrison's trial of Clay Shaw, Garrison had to know it. What was the effect of the whole business? Years later the Chief Counsel of the Assassinations Committee, Robert Blakey, stated that (though this was not an official finding either explicit or implied) that Carlos Marcello was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy. <sup>David Ferrie</sup> David Ferrie worked for Marcello. If there were Mafia ties to the District Attorney's office and to the government of New Orleans and Louisiana, then the trial sacrificed some scape goats and deflected attention away from Marcello and the Teamsters.

*Another*

*David Ferrie? Garrison knew it.*

*garbage*

*knowing they hated each other*

Garrison had a line to Walter Sheridan of NBC who had formerly worked for Robert Kennedy, and who knew that the