

13 July 1968

Dear Jim and Jenifer:

Here is the Sylvia Meagher tape, the original, which I would like back after you have copied it. At the end of her portion of the program I had intended to include any comments but there were not many due to at least half of the lines' being out of order.

I hope this will serve as a peace offering of sorts since I have been so remiss in answering your letter. Someone seems to have cornered the monkey-wrench market and heaved them all my way. We are holding off on Mort Sahl because of some program changes coming up that should be an improvement.

If I try to explain the reasons for Mrs. Meagher's opinion regarding Jim Garrison, I will louse it up as sure as anything so I would suggest that you write to her and ask for her own comments. Here is her address;

Mrs. Sylvia Meagher
302 West 12th Street
New York, New York 10014

It is too bad TMO was not able to print her entire letter because it would have cleared a lot of questions. If you wish, you may tell her I suggested you write her. In the letter I have started to you, I have tried to answer some of your questions such as about cats and UFOs so I won't go into that here. One of these days I will complete the letter and get it in the mail - I hope.

After jumping to first one side and then the other about Jim Garrison, I kind of let him float around - which is a confusing metaphor to anyone except me. Finally I came to the conclusion there had to be some alternative that was not "for" nor "against". It may not be worth the trouble but it seems worth considering.

With all the criticism and disbelief of the WR, those who thought it was all wrong had to have something to fasten on as a hope. Jim Garrison serves that purpose since he is able to move through the courts. If the conspiracy is as great as we believe it to be, action would be taken to be sure the culprits would never have to stand trial and it would be done so smoothly that we would not realize it. Jim Garrison could be used, without his ever knowing it, as both a means of allowing the critics to believe they were accomplishing something and also as an instrument to bring things to the point at which they now stand. As you wrote, no one had any real hope that Clay Shaw would have to stand trial but I think all of us believed something would be accomplished. If the Federal courts rule for Shaw's attorneys, Garrison will be left without any further course of action, the critics will have a martyr and will then direct their attention toward vindicating him rather than trying any further to bring to justice whoever was guilty of the assassination. If the WR is made binding on all courts, everyone to come under the suspicion of the critics will have been declared innocent already, they might even be able to plead double jeopardy as a defense.

Jim Garrison could have been allowed to go up to but not into trial while all the time the Powers That Be had drawn the line beyond which he would not be allowed to move. I do not believe he could have been used with his knowledge. I do wonder, however, if someone else might have been provided had Garrison not carried through. He has said the CIA was working against him - the CIA and the Federal government.

This is all, of course, just an idea I have been going over and could fall apart with further scrutiny. Certainly it would pull the sting of Harold Weisberg's books if Garrison were stopped and Harold has been one of those devoting full time. Another thing to consider, if Garrison did not have a solid case against Shaw, resorting to Federal judges would have been unnecessary. End of paper and time to stop.

All my best to you both,

Helen