



Marginalia



Letters:

A BURNING QUESTION

SIRS: This morning's New York Times described your December cover and it sounds like a dandy.

Many people (some of whom have the potential to become the most adamant supporters of your stand) view draft card burning as unpatriotic and irresponsible.

Speaking from the distaff side may I suggest that you put a gentle smile on your face and sock it to them.

MARVIN SHANLEY
Washington, New Jersey

THE GARRISON COMMISSION

THEY (NBC, CBS, Newsweek, the CIA, the FBI and all other concerns) are so worried about Jim Garrison [The Garrison Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy] RAMPARTS, January 1968, going wrong in his investigation, why not allow him free reign and see if he makes the ass out of himself they all think he will? If Garrison's wrong, think of the laughs all these people will have. If Garrison's right, think of all the faith we had in our federal government.

R. C. HOOD JR.
Fullerton, California

SIRS: Just a note to commend your writer on the recent Jim Garrison story. He interpreted correctly the UPI pick-up of the AP report of the threat by U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark against Jim Garrison. The remark, as your writer said, indicated a state of mind. As the reporter who picked up the line, I can describe the background.

Following a speech at the University of Virginia, Oct. 13, Clark, several law students, and a reporter resembling a student talked privately on stage. Clark answered the reporter's probing by saying, "Much as I may hate to do it, I just might have to prosecute Jim Garrison . . . he took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him just for personal aggrandizement." When asked what Garrison would obtain by bringing a groundless, losing case, Clark answered,

"Perhaps Garrison is not as logical as you are."

Clark also denied Garrison's assertion that the government has a large secret file of documents on the assassination. The only records not open to public inspection, he said, are those pertaining to President Kennedy's corpse. These are being withheld until the demise of the President's children.

Following Clark's denial that the Garrison prosecution statement was ever made, I contacted his office. The upshot was a note from press officer Cliff Sessions which could be interpreted as backtracking on the denial. Sessions said, "The Attorney General issued no statement on your story. In response to several inquiries, I released the following statement on the day after your story was carried by the AP: 'The Attorney General discussed this matter hypothetically. He stated no conclusion. The Department of Justice has no plans for any case against Mr. Garrison.'"

This differed from the denial carried by the AP, Oct. 14, which read: "However, a spokesman for the Justice Department in Washington said the department has no plans for bringing a case at this time [italics added]. The spokesman further denied that Clark had accused Garrison of ruining prominent New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw."

Observers and friends of Clark maintain the whole thing was a simple unguarded-moment incident. I have found no evidence to the contrary. But it's a reporter's job to have an essential distrust of innocence.

REY BARRY
The Daily Progress
Charlottesville, Virginia

EDITORIAL ROOMS AND MAIN BUSINESS OFFICE
301 Broadway
San Francisco, California 94133
Telephone: YU 1-4670

Cable Address:
RAMPARTS, San Francisco

Contents Copyright © 1968
By Ramparts Magazine, Inc.

Press run this issue: 6,000

Editor:
Warren Hinckle III

Art Director:
Donald Stock

Managing Editor:
Robert B. Baker

Assistant Managing Editor:
Shel Silverstein

Senior Editor:
David H. Brown

Mitchell Wilson

Consulting Editor:
Noam Chomsky

and Garrison
Ogalsby, Robert
Weiss

Copy Editor:
Leslie Thomas

Military Editor:
Don Durr

Staff Writers:

Mike Ansara, B. Alan Bergman, David
Ver, Peter, . . .

Adam Hochschild, David K. Morrison, Jay
Phan Schreier, . . .

Advertising/Production Director:
John Williams

Contributing Editors:

G. M. Feigen, Travel, Paul Krassner,
Society, Jean Lacouture, Southeast Asia,
Sandra Levinson, Judy Fetter, New York,
Thomas Brahe, Paris, Marcus Raskin,
Washington, Jessica Mitford, Oakland,
Monique Maurer, Munich, Herbert Gold,
Paul Jacobs, San Francisco, Leslie Fiedler,
Buffalo, Hunter S. Thompson, Aspen,
Sonia Orwell, London, Stan Fraberg, Extra
Pages, Harold Lipset, Criminology, Maurice
Zeitlin, John Gerassi, Latin America

Editorial Assistants:

Janis Chan, Katherine Flegal, Karen Gar-
rett, Paul Gilliland, Karen Kahn, Griffin
Levy, Deborah Sampson, Vampira, Anna
Willis-Betts

Assistant to the Editor:
Maureen Stock

ADMINISTRATION

Warren Hinckle III (General Manager),
Robert Kaldenbach (Controller), Bert Gar-
mise (Circulation Consultant), Marc Stone
(East Coast Manager), G. M. Feigen (Gen-
eralist), Roy Tigner (Assistant Controller),
Tuck Willis (Circulation Manager), Gordon
Finley (Eastern Advertising Manager),
Nancy Ribbon (Western Advertising Man-
ager), Nicholas Samstag (71), Margot Lind
(Administrative Assistant), Hanne Blum
(Subscription Lady)

RAMPARTS is published monthly by Ramparts Magazine, Inc.
MAIN OFFICES: 301 Broadway, San Francisco, California. Tele-
phone YU 1-4670. NEW YORK OFFICES: 250 E. 68th St., Apt.
4C, New York, N.Y. Business Telephone: TE 8-1830. Editorial
Telephone: WA 4-5525. PARIS OFFICE: 86 Rue de l'Île, Paris
MUNICH OFFICE: Altmühlstrasse 1/III, 8 München 13. SUB-
SCRIPTION RATES: \$8.00, one year; \$15.00, two years in U.S.A.
and possessions. Foreign rate: \$9.50, one year; \$16.00, two years.
Foreign Airmail rates: Mexico, Central America & Caribbean
Islands, \$17; Europe, South America, Africa (bordering the
Mediterranean), \$21; Far & Near East, USSR, Australia & re-
mainder of Africa, \$26.50. Single issue, 75 cents. Copyright
© 1968 by Ramparts Magazine, Inc. All rights reserved. MANU-
SCRIPTS: Unsolicited manuscripts submitted to RAMPARTS
should be sent with return postage and self-addressed en-
velope. RAMPARTS editors assume no responsibility for
unsolicited manuscripts. Second copies should be retained by
writer. EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING CORRESPONDENCE:
All editorial and advertising correspondence should be mailed
to 301 Broadway, San Francisco, California. SUBSCRIPTION
CORRESPONDENCE: All subscription correspondence, includ-
ing address changes, should be mailed to RAMPARTS Sub-
scription Dept., 1255 Portland Place, Boulder, Colorado 80502.
For change of address, send both new and old address (enclose
recent magazine address label, if possible). Please allow six
weeks for change of address. Second class postage paid at
San Francisco, California, and at additional offices. Printed
in the United States of America.