

DEAR PLAYBOY

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GARRISON INTERVIEW

Your October interview with New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison—like your Mark Lane interview last February—raises many questions about the veracity of the Warren Report. But the outcome of Garrison's investigation, and even the real truth about the Kennedy assassination (if ever it becomes known), fades into insignificance when compared with the larger issue: whether, in the aftermath, there was a collaboration, either accidental or deliberate, between the Government and the mass news media; and whether dishonesty, collusion and secrecy are as pervasive in our Government as Garrison suggests.

Randall Schmidt
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Although Jim Garrison hasn't shaken my beliefs, he certainly has caused me some concern, because he's a hell of an intelligent, sincere man, a good friend, with a stable background and a brilliant future. He's not conducting his investigation for publicity or for future office.

I still believe the Warren Report is accurate, that Oswald was the lone assassin, that there was no connection between Oswald and Ruby. Of course, Jim believes that Oswald didn't fire a shot, that Ruby and Oswald were both patsies and intimately knew each other, and that the whole assassination was engineered by a right-wing Dallas group using former CIA men. Jim doesn't say the CIA was involved or that President Johnson was involved. But he does enlarge upon the viciousness of the establishment, the power structure and the money people in Dallas.

Personally, I feel that Dallas and its money are an unholy source of trouble now and for the future. I'm certainly more willing to listen to Jim's case after hearing him and a lot of off-the-record facts that I can't report—and that he can't report because of pretrial problems. I certainly respect Jim for not divulging his case before trial—even to rebut the charges that have been leveled against him, by NBC and others. And I know the CIA's capacity for doing the damndest cloak-and-dagger "un-American" activities that can be imagined, even up to

declaring war, which until recently I thought was solely within the province of the Congress and the President—and the American people.

Melvin M. Belli
San Francisco, California

What Garrison has to say about the assassination and its aftermath is of vital interest to all Americans.

Representative George V. Hansen
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

I read PLAYBOY's Garrison interview with perhaps more interest than most readers. I was an eyewitness to the shooting of policeman Tippit in Dallas on the afternoon President Kennedy was murdered. I saw two men, neither of them resembling the pictures I later saw of Lee Harvey Oswald, shoot Tippit and run off in opposite directions. There were at least half a dozen other people who witnessed this.

My wife convinced me that I should say nothing, since there were other eyewitnesses. Her advice and my cowardice undoubtedly have prolonged my life—or at least allowed me now to tell the true story. I marvel at your courage in printing your interview with the New Orleans D. A., and I imagine you have heard from the CIA. If you have, perhaps this letter will end up in McLean, Virginia, and not in your letters column. Since I presently live on the East Coast (you'll see that my envelope is postmarked New York City), I am not too worried about being traced.

If Garrison and truth-seeking publications such as PLAYBOY continue to search for what really happened in Dallas, the result will truly be a profile in courage, one that will duly honor our late President.

Eyewitness
(Timid but Still Alive)

"While we're always willing to honor legitimate requests to protect a correspondent's identity, unsigned letters like this one usually wind up not with the CIA but in a wastebasket in the Playboy Building. But because of the possible importance of this letter, we forwarded it to Garrison. The district attorney's reply: 'As I pointed out in my interview, the

IT'S NEW...

IT'S IMPORTED...

IT'S TERRIFIC...

RAFFIA

...FOR MEN

IN REFRESHING PLEASING

LIME

AND EXCITING INVITING

BAY RUM

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY

KIT **3**⁵⁰



CONTAINING TRAVEL SIZES OF

LIME COLOGNE

LIME AFTER SHAVE

BAY RUM

PLEASE HIM...

EXCITE HIM...

GIVE HIM...

RAFFIA

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men who killed President Kennedy are being protected by certain agencies of the U. S. Government. It is a commentary on the hypocrisy that now exists in Washington that the Justice Department is playing a major role in concealing the truth about the assassination and in obstructing our investigation. Despite all this help from the Federal Government, the best thing the assassins have working for them continues to be the fear of those who witnessed the assassination—and events that followed it—about becoming involved. If the man who wrote this letter really knows anything about the murder of Tippit, if he really cares about the memory of John Kennedy, if he really cares about his country, the time has come for him to prove it—by calling, writing or coming immediately to the District Attorney's Office, 2700 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70119."

ALL HONEST CITIZENS APPLAUD YOUR PUBLISHING GARRISON AND LANE INTERVIEWS—A NATIONAL DUTY SUPERBLY DONE.

J. R. KEISTER
GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

I would like to congratulate you for striving to present District Attorney Garrison and his office in a neutral light. I am currently involved in Garrison's case as a state's witness, and I have seen few if any national reports concerning the assassination conspiracy that were not colored by additional sentiment. We must all remember that whether or not Garrison has anything to back up his charges, he should be allowed to investigate and seek prosecutions based on whatever evidence he uncovers. Few national media have been willing to let him do this.

Walter Sheridan's credentials for truth and objectivity do not alter the fact that he came to New Orleans not to investigate Garrison's case for NBC but "to destroy Garrison." These are his own words. I am usually one to accept the published truth that Federal agencies and national news media present us. However, since I have come into contact with a representative of one of these, Walter Sheridan, I have discovered that NBC, ex-Government worker Sheridan and others do not know what truth or objective reporting is. This nation is in sad shape when we cannot turn to our Government or to our national news media for the truth. But so it seems to be. I congratulate PLAYBOY for having the courage to allow Garrison to rise or fall solely on his own evidence.

Perry R. Russo
New Orleans, Louisiana

Correspondent Russo is one of the two key witnesses in Garrison's case against New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw. Russo has testified before three New Orleans judges that in mid-September

1963 he attended a meeting at David Ferrie's apartment where Shaw, Lee Harvey Oswald and Ferrie plotted the assassination of President Kennedy. In the NBC television special on Garrison's investigation, reporter Walter Sheridan said that Russo had failed a lie-detector test concerning his supposed association with Shaw and Oswald. When subsequently given time to rebut the NBC charges, Garrison said Russo had passed the test.

By giving District Attorney Jim Garrison an opportunity to present his side of the most explosive case in our lifetime, I believe you have presented your readers the first chance to really see what Garrison is attempting to do. If just one tenth of his claims are fact, then the United States is in worse trouble than anyone imagined. My greatest fear is that not one tenth but all of Garrison's claims are true. The greatest service your magazine can perform is to continue to grant Garrison the opportunity to let all Americans know what he is doing.

Richard M. Findner
APO New York, New York

I don't know the merits of Mr. Jim Garrison's charges against the CIA and the various far-right groups who, he says, killed the President and used my son Lee Harvey Oswald as the pawn. Only time and trial will determine the accuracy of those allegations. But as one who lived through, and still lives through, the same Coventry and pressure as Garrison has been experiencing since he opened that investigation, I have a profound sympathy for what he is doing. I know what it is to have a hundred accusations thrown at me, as he has had at him. He only plays "Second Fiddle" to me in that respect!

I may have sounded shrill in those early days after the President's death when I stood virtually alone against the powers and said my son was innocent of the charges against him. I pitted my lone voice against their combined might, and they made me the lady leper of the land.

Now I see Jim Garrison accused of high crimes: of attempted bribery, bad faith, of political ambition, sensationalism—as I was accused, even vilified, when I said my son was a CIA agent and that men in high places used him as their patsy. Garrison has uncovered evidence of that every way he has turned, as indicated in his lengthy interview with PLAYBOY.

Four years have passed since they took my son's life, prevented him from having a fair trial, prevented him from throwing his accusations back at the Dallas police and others. Watching how that tide of doubt and revulsion against the "Warren Report" has swept the Country, I wait, and I work—so that the false accusations, hearsay, distortion and

errors can be corrected someday. NOW, IN OUR LIFETIME!

It takes time for a nation to overcome a brainwash. I have lived to see a poll showing two thirds of the land reject that my son killed the President and Officer Tippit, and shot at General Walker. I have lived to see and hear sobered thousands say my son had nothing to do with either murder.

I have even lived to see the spirit of fair play arising again in this country. I see PLAYBOY fairly and objectively presenting Garrison's case. I hear the people on radio talk shows fighting over the merits of the cause, and everywhere, because the President's death has brought us all closer to nuclear confrontation, I see a greater quest for the truth about that episode, as if, once finding it, it might help to alleviate the world's tensions.

But the slayers of the President and my son slew the morality of the nation with the same enflaming shots. And what has happened has happened. President John F. Kennedy and my son Lee Harvey Oswald were of one mind on many important issues. It is my opinion that they were both murdered for the same reasons. I am thankful I no longer have to fight alone for my son's vindication. I am truly grateful and wish to thank all Americans and people of all lands, who contribute to the finding of the TRUTH. What else can I feel for what Jim Garrison is doing but sympathy and elation? I know the lonesome feeling Mr. Garrison must sometimes have, fighting the powers that be. I salute his courage.

Marguerite C. Oswald
Fort Worth, Texas

Your interview with Jim Garrison was superb. I'm sure it was the first time he was able to express himself freely and completely, in an objective setting. On the door to his office, Garrison has replaced the seal of the State of Louisiana with a motto that, unfortunately, not many public officials adhere to: FOR THE PEOPLE—NO COMPROMISE.

Lester Traub
Beverly Hills, California

For the sake of those of us who really care, I hope there will always be magazines like yours, with the courage to print the words of men like Garrison—men who seem genuinely concerned with the fate of our nation at a time when false pride, gross nationalism and blind trust in the establishment threaten our very existence.

Larry Bates
Boston, Massachusetts

Jim Garrison is a very clever lawyer; his interview paints a very convincing picture for his case. But he reminds me

Pub for men uncorks the lusty life.



A rousing new fragrance
that stays with you.

After Shave, Cologne
and other essentials
for the lusty life.

Created for men by Revlon.

of a whirling dervish, lashing out in all directions at everyone within his reach. He points an accusing finger at some—and blames the rest for ruining his case. Most New Orleanians I know have not seen or heard anything from Garrison that convinces them that he has a valid case. If, as he claims, "my staff and I solved the assassination weeks ago," then I suggest that he "put up or shut up"—now.

Mrs. Mary Ann Long
New Orleans, Louisiana

Garrison says he won't shut up until he's given a chance to put up—in a court of law. He has refused to disclose his evidence against Clay Shaw, because it might violate Shaw's civil rights and give his attorneys a possible means of voiding the trial due to "pretrial publicity." Shaw's attorneys recently requested a six-month postponement of the trial, and a compromise was reached that delayed it until early February. Shaw's attorneys have also asked for a change of venue and have challenged the bona fides of the grand jury investigating the case.

Considering that Garrison claims to know the identities of the "precision guerrilla team of at least seven men," of those "fanatic anti-Communists" and "Cuban exiles" and of those "former-employees of the CIA," isn't it rather strange that all these alleged conspirators—who could so easily kill a President—allow Garrison to live? This is one reason I can't go along with any of Garrison's theories. It doesn't make sense to me that these skillful "conspirators" haven't conspired to do away with the one man who threatens to expose them.

Edmund C. Perry
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Garrison's reply: "I think I took out an insurance policy for myself—and for Clay Shaw—when I spelled out the CIA's involvement in all this. The last thing the CIA would want now is to see anything happen to me. And they know that my staff knows everything I know and is ready to take over for me at any time and carry the investigation to its conclusion."

After reading your October interview, I'm more convinced than ever that Garrison is a demagog in the tradition of Huey and Earl Long and that his "investigation" is nothing more than a freak show staged for the benefit of New Orleans' many anti-Cuban bigots. Garrison's tactics will probably win him nothing in court, when Clay Shaw and the other "plotters" in Garrison's sensational conspiracy are finally tried. But, of course, Big Jim will blame the evil Federal Government and those outsiders, the Cubans. Anti-Negro prejudice is no longer profitable for Southern politicians with national ambitions, so new targets are needed. And come electiontime, he'll be

assured of victory at the polls. Garrison should feel right at home with the motley assortment of weirdos his probe has brought to light.

Ricardo Brown
Hartford, Connecticut

PLAYBOY has rendered an invaluable service to Americans by offering Garrison a podium. He seems to be one of that rare breed—human beings who think, speak and act with integrity. As a young American who sees a great deal of sickness in our culture, I am anxious to believe in Jim Garrison, because he speaks of and subscribes to human values. Yet *Life* magazine, in a recent series on mobsters in America, reported that Garrison spent several days in Las Vegas—as the guest of New Orleans-area gangsters. I wish PLAYBOY—or Garrison himself—would help me resolve this shrill and frightening contradiction.

David S. Ogden
Hayward, California

Garrison says the Life charges are "sheer crap."

BULLY FOR MAILER

Just a note to express my appreciation for Norman Mailer's very fine memoir, *The Crazy One*, in the October issue of PLAYBOY. I was living in Mexico during Amado Ramirez' brief flair in the Mexican plazas during 1954 and 1955. Mailer's memoir is not only an accurate description of El Loco but it also captures the true spirit of *la fiesta brava*.

Luis Gugel
Santa Monica, California

Olé El Loco. Norman Mailer and the sweet moment of truth.

William J. Robinson
Newburgh, New York

For further moments of truth with Norman Mailer, see this month's "Playboy Interview," on page 69.

Damn, that Norman Mailer can write. But ask him, please, to go back to war and sex and stuff like that and leave bullfighting alone; he's just too good, and it's too tough an act to follow.

Barnaby Conrad
San Francisco, California

A PLAYBOY contributor and sometime matador, Conrad has authored several bullfight novels, in addition to his well-known "Encyclopedia of Bullfighting."

RIPPLES OF APPLAUSE

My compliments to Ray Russell for his *Ripples* in your October issue. It was the most mind-bending short story I've read in years.

Clifford Holland
Pontiac, Michigan

Ripples was one of the cleverest and most intriguing stories I've read in a long time. It even prompted me to get out my