

MAY 17 1972

5/14/72 Comments on your N.O. clips: The 4/26 S-I story saying Garrison appear "fit" does represent a considerable change, for he looked like hell, worse than I'd ever imagined he could, the two times I saw him before Thanksgiving last year, each time long enough to get a good view and perspective and for a more than fair sample of his state of mind. He then told me that he had really contracted a case of hospital staph, that one of the doctors had levelled with him and would testify, that it was from carelessness in the opr. room, and that another patient, I think a woman, died from it. He attributed his survival to the enormity of his body, which, as he put it, diluted the infection, if true something of which I'd never heard. I have thought the larger the body, the greater the possibilities of reproduction of the infectious bug. He then said that his doctors told him it would take another year to get fully over it. I think he'll wear a large brace for the rest of his life. Visibly, it goes up to the armpits. The surgery was only partly successful. But what the paper dare not go into and what I think can't be encompassed in the "On Road Back To Health" head, is his mental health, where I think he has passed the tenuous line of no return. He was doing absolutely insane, self-destructive things and bragging of their legal brilliance. I have known him to be mentally ill for some time. I first began to doubt his ethics 11/67, after a couple of dirty deals to me, but I could pass them off as the expediency of a pol. In 2/68 I had more serious doubts about his personal competence in this field, not as DA, where I found his policies, by and large, progressive and decent. By April I ~~started~~ began to wonder about his sanity, as I now recall, and by July I did not hide my anger at some of the things he did, things that could not be excused, had no remaining question of utter and incredible incompetence in the ass. inv on all levels, and was reasonably confident he was paranoid. All doubt, if any lingered, and I am not now certain, ended 11/68. Since then, nothing but dismaying confirmation. Now, on the Gallinghouse thing, aside from wondering if he has jurisdiction in some of the areas and at his coup in retaining jurisdiction when another office was created and those cases were in the new federal jurisdiction, I have learned that as the term is generally interpreted, "conservative" in N.O. means blackest reaction. His associates in the 1968 Nixon campaign were the most disgusting slime in the State, which is not slight description. Such vermin as the Ubans, esp. Bringer and his cronies, Treen, a veritable Rarick (who is NSRP, I just learned from Jerry, who knows-he handled the mail and lived with Stoner). I had good info that one of the causes of delay in the handing down of the Federal JG et al indictments was Gallinghouse's determination to include his predecessor, Louis Le Coeur, who was anything but pro-Garrison, as I recall some of the activities of his office. Or, to put it another way, G is one of the edges on one of Nixon's many anti-Demo axes. HW