

Auckland, 14/03/94

Dear Harold

As you will see by the enclosed page from last Saturday's 'The New Zealand Herald' my review of the Gerald Posner, Robert Groden and Nigel Hamilton books made it onto the review page.

I am sending three copies, one for your file, one to pass on to Gerald McKnight and a spare copy for anybody else you may wish to share it with.

I have not heard from David Wrone so I have written to him, copy of my letter enclosed for your information.

I have read through the material from Gerald McKnight and find it very good, though I must say it looked better on the second and even third reading. I am somewhat puzzled by the precise significance of the LBJ's White House phone conversations as recorded in the transcripts and phone logs that Gerald copied for me. I can see one strand clearly, strong suggestions by people to LBJ that he put a respectable and amenable (like-minded) body of people together to sanctify the report then being written by the FBI. Reading through the file I get the feeling LBJ takes these ideas as his own, and then finds his way (with a little help in the initial stages) to appointing Warren and the others, all with very conservative backgrounds. But I am not aware of exactly who and what Dean Rostow was in 1963. I know the name, and a little about him, but nothing that fits him into the picture of November 1963. The same goes for Bill Moyers, and Joe Alsop, or Abe Fortas (29th December 1963). Can you tell me anything about these names?

Gerald McKnight said in his letter about the LBJ phone calls, "there is some gold here if you dig for it". I feel I would be able to see the gold more clearly if I could place the names of the people LBJ was talking to into context.

I must away. I have had a 'flu like bug for nearly two weeks and I cannot through it off, even with the massive doses of Vitamin C I am taking. Chris says I should take time off work but I keep putting it off, I have too much to do. I am sure she is right, I need to go to bed for a couple of days.

All the best to you and Lil. I hope you are well and happy and are getting around. How was the blood test?

bye for now, with love and best wishes,



# JFK books onslaught

## CASE CLOSED

By Gerald Posner  
Penguin \$21.95

## THE KILLING OF A PRESIDENT

By Robert Groden  
Hodder Headline \$69.95

## JFK, RECKLESS YOUTH

By Nigel Hamilton  
Random \$29.95

Reviewed by DAL MCGUIRK

**T**HE 30th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy saw the release of some 30 new titles in the United States.

These titles covered both the Dallas events and the subject of JFK.

Three of the most prominent from this new generation of JFK books are now in New Zealand bookshops.

Gerald Posner rightly decries commercialisation of the JFK assassination, but is wrong in nearly everything else.

His book sets out to do two things — justify the official United States Warren Commission's 1964 report that found a lone malcontent with left wing tendencies the assassin, and counter the criticism levelled at the commission since the 1960s.

To achieve these ends he adopts the partisan and adversarial role of a prosecutor.

On key questions however Posner is silent, such as over the encounter by three police officers, immediately after the assassination in areas where shots were reported, of men falsely claiming to be

colour) and diagrams connected with the assassination.

He falls down badly though in the main text and captions trying to tie the photos to a dizzying number of possible assassins and accomplices.

Both Posner and Groden fail to convince in pointing the finger at who they think killed JFK, mainly because of the dearth of conclusive evidence.

The crime was not properly investigated at the time, and there are no leads now to follow (hence no basis for theories to reveal who may have been behind the assassination).

Groden's book may well be worth buying just for the photos, but one would need to read other authors to begin to understand what the photos mean.

Nigel Hamilton's book is the first of a two-volume biography of JFK, covering the years from 1917 to 1946.

The "reckless" in the title comes from Hamilton's description of JFK's "reckless sexual licence," and it says much of what the book is about.

Among the sexual exploits recounted by Hamilton is JFK's torrid wartime affair with glamorous Danish journalist Inga Arvad, wrongly suspected by the FBI of being a nazi agent.

Hamilton's book is rejected by the Kennedy family, especially in the way it shows JFK as an emotional cripple, deprived of love as a child by both parents. (The character of Joseph Kennedy sen is blackened throughout the book, with Hamilton likening him to Josef Stalin.)

Still, for all its deficiencies as a biography, it is a most readable story with its look at this hitherto hidden side to JFK's early years.

Secret Service agents.

Such evidence of conspiracy was not followed up by the FBI or the commission either.

Posner has been widely quoted and promoted worldwide since his book was released, and has received unprecedented support from the CIA.

However, as anybody with a little factual knowledge of the subject can see, Posner takes a most biased viewpoint while claiming to be neutral and objective.

Robert Groden, long-time critic of the Warren Commission, has put together 600 photos (mostly