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CENTER FOR
Historical Analysis

November 2, 1993

1993–1995 Project
War, Peace, and Society in Historical Perspective
Rudolph M. Bell, Director John Whiteclay Chambers II, Project Leader

Dear Professor Wrone:

I too have read a lot of Kennedy assassination material. A year or so ago I reviewed a number of assassination books for The New York Times Book Review. In that essay I expressed my considerable doubts about many aspects of the case.

So I didn't read Posner out of context. I don't know Posner. I don't know his publisher. I have no ax to grind. I have no emotional involvement.

I read Posner in script and you know what my reaction was.

You write a book on the subject. I'm always open to new evidence and have long since learned that my mind is always changing as new evidence comes to light. As you would know had you read my Nixon work, I call them as I see them. Even when I have to eat crow.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Ambrose

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October 18, 1993

Professor Stephen E. Ambrose
Eisenhower Center
University of New Orleans
Lakefront, New Orleans 70148

Dear Professor Ambrose:

I have recently completed a close and exhausting reading of Gerald Posner's Case Closed where I noted on the jacket you highly recommended it as definitive. Just this last week I read a review of the book where you were quoted in praise of the volume, with really quite laudatory comments.

Over the course of the last twenty-five years I have read extensively on the murder and investigation, including much, much work in the vast numbers of original documents in over seven public and three private collections. When I read Posner's book I checked every fact possible to be checked against the original documents, read the sources he used wherever possible, and laboriously reviewed each sub-issue with the documentary evidence. This includes every sphere of the case.

In the course of the many years I have read almost every book on the assassination most with great and careful examination. I consider myself a subject-matter expert. Many hold similar opinions of my knowledge and objectivity.

In my considered judgment Case Closed is the most error strewn, irresponsible, and knowingly distorted work ever published on the Kennedy assassination. Please note my use of the words knowingly and ever. In the details and in the large, even in the adjectival choice, Posner is consistently false, and grossly manipulative of the truth.

What really stuns me is your praise of Case Closed. I suppose what really hurts is I have read your books from Crazy Horse to Nixon (I did not finish Nixon). I would never have imagined you to have been caught by this kind of imitative scholarship.

So, I write to you to ask you how is it you were tripped up on Posner's effort to depict the reality of the murder of a President?

Sincerely,

David R Wrone

David R. Wrone
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