



## CLOSING ARGUMENTS

by  
Jerry Organ

Professor Rose defiantly heralds the fourth decade of assassination dissent with the declaration: "we shall not answer all the outstanding questions in the first 100 days nor even in the first 1000 days." One would think having the absence of deadlines, scientific constraints and investigative ethics would ensure findings more perceptive than the official reports.

Not so, as objective researchers like Gerald Posner—and gadflies like Livingstone, Wrone and Perry—point out: the critical case to date revolves around witness embellishments, shoddy analysis, petty carping, semantics and, worst of all, cheap innuendo and character assassination that defame dedicated officials and undermine government agencies.

**Assumptions.** In his review of *Case Closed* (November 1993), James Folliard suggests Posner "puts the cart before the horse" by opening his book with Oswald's personal history out of context. In fact, the book opens with Oswald's arrest—after attempting to kill Officer MacDonald with the gun he used to murder Tippit [1]—at the Texas Theatre. Evidently, Folliard finds nothing suspicious about a man fleeing the site of the assassination to roam the streets of Dallas with a concealed weapon.

**Frazier-Randle.** Mrs. Randle, through the rain, saw Oswald carry the package to her brother's parked car from a distance and only briefly. Buell Frazier saw the package in place on the rear seat and later being carried from behind, as Oswald rushed ahead to the Depository. Frazier recalled:

*"I didn't pay too much attention the way he was walking because I was walking along there looking at the railroad cars and watching the men on the diesel switch them cars and I didn't pay too much attention on how he carried the package at all." [2]*

The distance to the point on the rear seat where Frazier thought the package reached was 27 inches; [3] even that was too long to be carried between the armpit and cupped hand. The siblings' rough estimates missed by just 20 percent. If the package really was short and lightweight, why bother to lay it across the back seat? Why carry it so close to the body, using the arm as a partial shield? Why fail to mention the "curtain rods" to Marina and Ruth Paine on the 21st?

Oswald thought the story so contrived, he denied it during interrogation (not knowing Mrs. Randle had also seen the package). Recently, *Frontline* acknowledged his room didn't require curtains or rods. Posner seems to have "conflated" the dual accounts, but critics continue to embellish the record in

the opposite extreme. [4] As for the FBI obtaining "prints not found by the Dallas police," (p. 3) Lt. Carl Day dusted the paper bag with powder, a method usually ineffective on such absorbent materials, while the Bureau utilized a silver nitrate solution which reacts to perspiration absorbed into the material. [5]

**The Lunchroom Debate.** Gary Mack (p. 14) completely ignores Carolyn Arnold's first statement in which "she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the (first floor) hallway" as she stood in front of the Depository. Mrs. Arnold didn't know Oswald personally and most of the women who left the building with her place their departure at about 12:15, [6] not 12:25 as claimed by Mack.

Oswald, writes Mack: "could also have entered the second floor lunchroom from another direction." (p. 14) However, Officer Baker testified:

*"I can't say whether he had gone in through that door (the lunchroom door) or not. All I did was catch a glance at him, and evidently—this door might have been, you know, closing and almost shut at that time." [7]*

Gerald Posner, like Jim Moore, evades the key issue surrounding the lunchroom encounter: whether Oswald had a Coke in hand when confronted by Baker. The motorcycle officer's affidavit of September 23, 1964 had the phrase "drinking a coke" struck out. [8] I propose that when Baker left Oswald behind in the room, he may have heard the machine operate, an action he later recalled as "drinking a coke." Reviewing his affidavit, Baker may have decided the term was essentially inaccurate but not important enough to qualify.

In his desperation to justify his presence in the lunchroom, Oswald selected the predominant brand, forsaking his usual Dr. Pepper. David Keck seems under the impression that: "No one else saw him in the building with a Coke after that time, and Baker's testimony indicates otherwise." (p. 12) In fact, Mrs. Robert Reid encountered Oswald in the second floor office area; "He had gotten a Coke and was holding it in his hands." [9] The Coke is never mentioned in Baker's testimony; Roy Truly and Baker both told the Commission Oswald was empty-handed.

**Dealey Plaza Witnesses.** To discredit Posner's claim that every credible witness who saw a rifle located it in the Oswald window, Folliard cites Malcolm Couch's account of seeing a rifle in a "window on the far right." (p. 4) From Couch's position on Houston Street, the Oswald window was on his far right.

Gary Mack writes: "The films and photos show that the testimony of a train blocking Hoffman's view are in error." (p. 14) However, a frame from the Patsy Paschall film—on view at The Sixth Floor Exhibit—shows the last car of the train clearing the north entrance of the overpass as the Presidential

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limousine enters the trestle. [10] The Bond photographs show a train stopped behind the North pergola, which may be a different one parked on a siding.

Lee Bowers testified he was occupied when the assassination occurred, perhaps remotely switching a track (using steam?) for the train just creeping across the overpass. Possibly, the operation—or the train itself—are the source of “smoke” over the knoll. Hopefully, Dealey Plaza denizens like Penn Jones or Carl Henry will shed some light on Bowers’ duties, track-switching, and the steampipe’s purpose.

It is certain that what David Lifton claims to be “smoke” on a Nix frame, [11] is nothing more than the tree shadow pattern visible on the sunlit portion of the retaining wall in the Moorman and Bond photos. Like Jim Marrs’ reference to Weigman’s “one clear frame,” Gary Mack alludes to “three frames of NBC News’ film” (p. 15) that purports to show smoke but fails to print them. Their evidence is as much a phantom as the smoke itself.

The two have also enjoyed a field day with the Bronson film, claiming (without publishing) movement in a window next to the sniper’s. Last fall, *Frontline* determined there were no human forms where alleged in either the Bronson or Hughes films; movement only occurs in the Oswald window during the final Hughes frames. [12] Critics still have two options: minimize their culpability or assault the integrity of those conducting the study.

**The Umbrella Man.** Gary Mack suggests “Penn Jones located the Umbrella Man,” (p. 15) while Marrs says “a telephone caller told” Jones about Witt. Jones and a parcel of media then confronted Witt at work unannounced.

Mack advises Witt’s testimony is at variance with the photographic record. Witt said he didn’t see “the President

shot and his movements.” Unlike Jean Hill and Gordon Arnold, Witt was tagged as an assassin, so he may have understandably minimized his observations to disinterest obsessive critics. The President was likely out of view from Witt when the first report occurred and had nearly passed Witt’s position when his hands moved towards the throat.

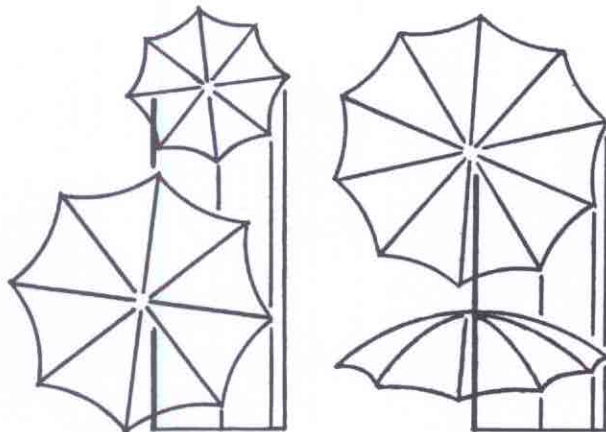
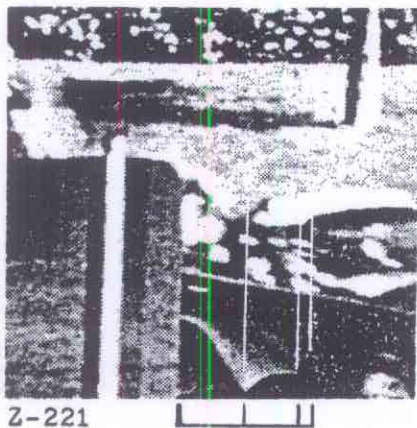
Perhaps the first report caused Witt to look towards the Depository as JFK approached; the pumping of the umbrella as Kennedy’s limousine passed indicates Witt’s awareness at the last moment. Witt claimed someone told him an open umbrella—a symbol of Chamberlain’s pre-World War II appeasement—would offend Kennedy, whose father had advocated American neutrality. [13]

Mack alleges Witt’s umbrella “had a different number of ‘ribs’ than the one in the Zapruder film.” Relying on the Willis 5 slide, Robert Cutler purports the umbrella at Dealey Plaza had eight ribs while Witt’s has ten. But, Zapruder frames 221–231 disclose not quite half of a side of the umbrella to the right of the Stemmons sign. Two and a half “webs” are visible in that quadrant, which can be doubled to five per half, making ten total. (See Figure 1)

**Black Dog Man.** As Sheldon Inkol points out, the mysterious shape at the retaining wall in the Willis 5 and Betzner photographs could not have joined the men on the stairs because the two men in dark clothing are already present, and Emmett Hudson is seen in various films (and Moorman) wearing a white hat and white shirt beneath an open jacket. [14] Robert Cutler believes the man to Hudson’s left screened him in the Willis photo. Inkol proposes the figure behind the wall was Gordon Arnold.

Although Gary Mack cites an interview with Lee Bowers concerning “two men he saw behind the grassy knoll picket

Figure 1: Spare Ribs





fence at the moment of the assassination...exactly where Badge Man and Back Up Man...appear to be," (p. 17) the position of those figures are between the fence and retaining wall. The Moorman photograph was analyzed by Polaroid and MIT for NOVA in 1988. They concluded Badge Man's "flash" was "most likely sunlight filtering through trees." [15]

The Nix roto-scoped image of a "tan-colored object...(dropping) downward and to the left" (p. 18) was shown on a Geraldo episode in 1991. Interestingly, the program opened with a live remote from Dealey Plaza, in which Marilyn Sitzman pointed towards the corner of the retaining wall, and said:

*"What had happened, there was a couple sitting right over here in a park bench and they dropped a pop bottle, right after the car went under the Triple Underpass. And when that pop bottle hit the cement, it kind of woke us up. And both Mr. Z and I was still standing up here. Everybody else was laying down flat. And all's I can remember then, was going through my mind: 'What am I doing standing up here?'" [16]*

Martin Shackelford reports what others contend was "a large pool of blood in an alley near the Depository" was actually "above the steps on the grassy knoll...variously described as blood and as red pop." [17] He adds: "An empty pop bottle appears in some photos, sitting atop the concrete wall on the knoll." What seems to be a park bench between the walkway and retaining wall can be seen in a newsclip. [18]

Could the movements in Nix represent a bottle being smashed, or some startle reaction that knocked it over? The black couple were gone when Zapruder panned over the retaining wall—Sitzman said they ran "towards the back." As far as I know, not one of the critics—Grodan, Lane, Mark North and Dick Gregory—watching in the Geraldo studio connected the couple to the grainy shapes at the retaining wall. In fact, Grodan presented the same Nix sequence, without mentioning the black couple, on The Montel Williams Show five weeks later.

**The Shoulder/Neck Wound.** James Folliard lampoons Posner's "shoulder/neck" wound positioning as "unscientific imprecision." (p. 4) In fact, Posner's description accurately locates the wound as shown in autopsy photos and JFK F-376. (See Figure 2) Using the latter, Thomas Canning notes: "The inshoot wound using the right lateral view in that figure showed that the wound was very high in the shoulder, just below the base of the neck at the back." [19] The Autopsy Report termed the wound site: "right superior posterior thorax above the scapula."

To counter such "imprecision," Folliard retreats to a favorite ploy of critics: eyewitness impressions, chiefly that of non-medical observers. While on the Commission, J. Lee Rankin interpreted a picture of the wound as "below the shoulder blade," a position that would have been below the seat back

(did Rankin mean shoulder crest?). Such loose impressions and researcher compliance are the real "imprecision." With respect to the Autopsy Descriptive Sheet, as far back as 1966, Dr. Boswell cautioned the sketch showed approximate locations only. [20]

Nor are the President's clothing holes a true indication of the wound site. Motorcade footage, especially that taken from JFK's side, clearly show his jacket exhibiting a rightward bulging cavity. [21] The Robert Croft photograph, taken simultaneously with frame 161, reveals the bulge in profile, and both the shirt and jacket converging at the level of the hairline on the nape. (See Figure 3) It is impossible to know just how the shirt was displaced, but it was not kept tucked in and was probably wrinkled beneath the jacket.

Measurements applied to the Left Profile photograph (see Figure 4) disclose the "shoulder/neck" wound was about 6 cm (2 1/4") below the lowest crease on the nape. Motorcade photographs of the collars at the hairline suggest they rose about 3 cm (1 1/4") from the same crease. That leaves only 5 cm (2") of clothing to be taken up by a bulging cavity or, in the case of the shirt, wrinkling.

**Neck Transit Trajectory.** Gary Mack claims: "the HSCA, based on the medical panel studies of the original photos and X-rays of the body, concluded the trajectory (through the neck) had to be slightly upward when Kennedy was sitting in an upright position." (p. 15) In fact, forensic anthropologist Dr. Clyde Snow reported: "When seen in the autopsy position, the outshoot wound was described as being at about the same height (or slightly higher) relative to the inshoot wound." [22]

Mack erroneously claims "the trajectory became slightly downward" only when "JFK bent over." However, just returning JFK to the anatomical position (the standardized medical reference showing the head and body in full and true profile) resulted in the bullet "moving right to left by 18 degrees and downward by 4.0 degrees relative to Kennedy if he were sitting erect." [23]

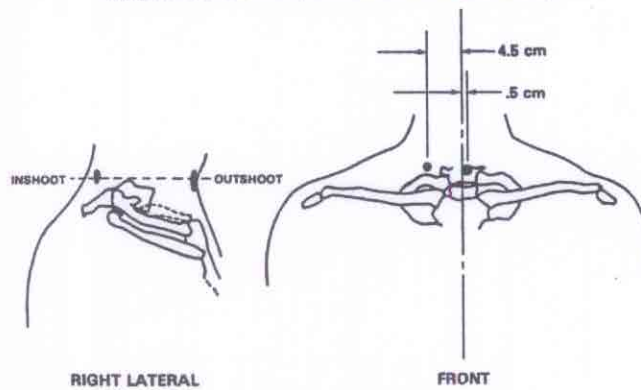
Mack adds: "Posner's theory depends on JFK bending over prior to being shot, a most unlikely scenario." In fact, detailed analysis of the Croft photograph by the HSCA Photographic Panel reveal just that:

*...since Kennedy was inclined slightly forward by approximately 11 degrees to 18 degrees (from true vertical), the downward slope of the trajectory, taking into account the 3 degree slope of the street, was established at between 18 and 25 degrees (4 degrees plus 11 degrees to 18 degrees, plus 3). The Panel decided to use an angle of 21 degrees for its analysis. [24]*

Resorting to long-discredited wound indicators and blurring the HSCA trajectory analysis show the desperation of critics stunned by the glare of modern science. The 1978

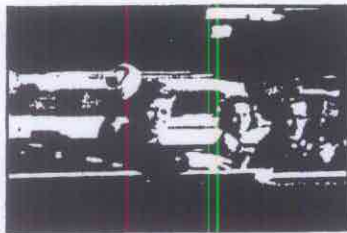
Figure 2: Shoulder/Neck Wound

**J.F.K. WOUND LOCATIONS DEDUCED FROM PATHOLOGY  
PANEL REPORT (AUTOPSY POSITION)**

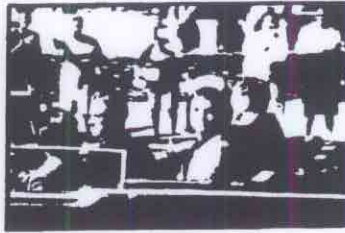


JFK Exhibit F-376

Figure 3: Bulging Cavity



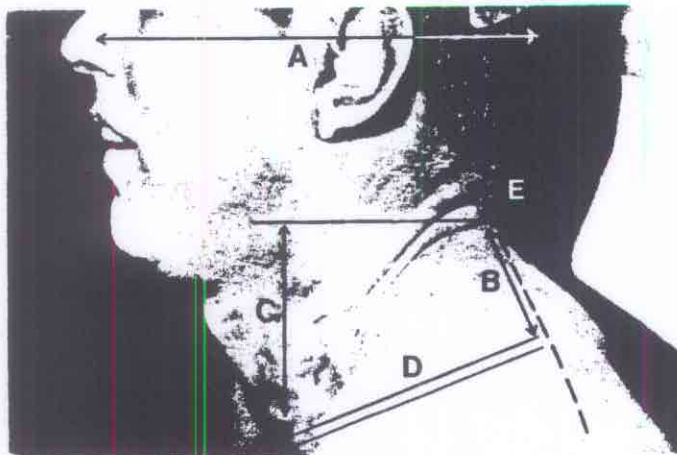
Lemmon Ave (12:05)



Croft (2-161)



Figure 4: Neck Transit Correlation



- A) 19.5 cm; based on skull indices
- B) 5.7 cm below lowest crease on nape (Wecht & Smith)
- C) 9 cm below same crease (Clark Panel)
- D) 13 cm cross section (due to inshoot 4.5 cm to right of midline, distance between wounds is 14 cm; 6 HSCA 43)
- E) 3 cm to hairline where collars converge



Select Committee study, establishing the plausibility of the single-bullet theory, has since been endorsed by NOVA, Failure Analysis Associates and Frontline.

**Connally Wounding.** David Keck writes: "the neck wound 'was 1.5 cm, not 1 1/4" as stated by Posner.'" (p. 12) In fact, Posner ascribes that measurement to the entry wound in the Governor's back, [25] a length twice that of the bullet hole in the back of Connally's jacket. [26] Dr. Shaw termed the back wound "roughly elliptical." [27]

Dr. Wecht's claim that "the lungs would deflate immediately" was shared by the surgeons who operated on Connally. However, indicators that his reactions were delayed include:

- Z 190: inability to execute intended rightward turn [28]
- Z 224: suit lapel flies out [29]
- Z 224-228: injured forearm (wrist is limp) springs up
- 224-234) upper body lurches from rightward to forward to rightward for half a second
- no memory of the second report, or being struck in the wrist and thigh.

Connally's natural impulse was to turn rightward, an action he may have failed to complete because he was physically incapacitated and lapsing into shock from the double-hit. He somehow blended an innocent turn to the right at frame 162 and involuntary lurch to the fore after frame 224 with actions he later considered were deliberate and keyed to the first report.

The dramatic shoulder drop at frames 237-238 has been a red herring. The tiny mass of CE 399 is simply too small to move or push such a large muscle group. The only body part of the two men that the bullet could have moved appreciably was the Governor's wrist, out of view prior to frame 224, after which it is out of alignment. It is the delayed lung collapse that draws the right shoulder down at frame 238.

**The Bullet Fragments.** Gary Mack urges: "There is reason to believe the fragments subjected to neutron activation analysis have no chain of possession and would be useless in court—the fragments still in the late Governor would be very useful." (p. 15) Perhaps Mack is referring to the Sibert-O'Neill "missile" receipt written for what was actually tiny lead fragments from the President's brain, and Audrey Bell's claim of unaccounted fragments from Connally's wrist. [30] Dr. Charles Gregory testified there were "two fragments of metal retrieved" from the wrist, [31] although a 1964 FBI photograph of CE 842 showed three, the number tested by Dr. Vincent Guinn in 1977.

**High Treason** contends "some of the known fragments have disappeared and Guinn was unable to test one of the fragments he had." [32] Concerning CE 841 (scrappings from the windshield), Guinn ventured: "Apparently in the previous FBI emission spectrographic examinations that little bit of mate-

rial had been completely used up." [33] The same tests consumed much of the lead in the curbstone smear, leaving "hardly a visible smudge." [34] CE 569 (fragment from the front seat) consisted entirely of copper from the bullet jacket, and was not tested because the samples used for comparison must contain in excess of one milligram of uncontaminated bullet lead.

Critics were quick to point out CE 842 had eight times more copper in their composition than CE 399, neglecting Guinn's explanation that the higher readings from the wrist fragments were "most likely due to contamination from the copper jacket of the bullet." A drilling from its core was used to represent CE 399 in the test. Similarly, extreme levels of sodium and chlorine (the constituents of salt) in CE 842 were attributed to dried body fluid and handling. [35] An exhumation of the late Governor would resolve nothing for conspiracy buffs intent on distorting the record and contemptuous of professionals respected in their field.

**Ballistics.** Gary Mack laments: "Posner ignored military specifications published by the House Assassinations Committee showing the muzzle velocity was 2300 feet per second, not 2000." (p. 16) Ballistics expert Larry Sturdivan testified:

*"...the muzzle velocity of this bullet varies between 2,000-2,200 feet per second. It will have lost some velocity in traversing some distance. Say at 100 yards it would have about 1,800-feet-per-second velocity."* [36]

The Commission reported C 2766 "has a muzzle velocity of approximately 2,160 feet per second." [37] As Oswald's ammunition was not recent, CE 399's charge may have been less than standard. Whichever muzzle velocity, the bullet will lose some velocity traveling through air to Kennedy. Posner uses Dr. West's estimate of 2,000+ feet per second entry velocity on page 328 and the slightly lower velocities of Drs. Oliver and Packler on page 338. Both figures are within the range of possibilities, and if transposed, would not negate findings.

David Keck is correct to denounce Posner's claim the missed bullet shed its copper jacket by striking a tree branch. (p. 12) As support for this, Posner cites experiments by Dr. Lattimer who "discovered that the lead core 'often' separated from the jacket." On page 335, he contradicts himself by presenting ballistics tests that demonstrate the toughness and stability of the Carcano bullet. Indeed, the two large remnants of the bullet that shattered the President's skull retained their jackets.

What gives? It all seems a desperate (but needless) attempt to give a fragment enough velocity to reach the underpass plus justify the absence of copper traces in the curbstone smear. Posner believes a fragment from the fatal bullet strike would be too spent to reach the curb (he seems unaware the windshield intrudes). The simple answer may be the bullet disintegrated



when it struck the street. A fragment could still have reached Tague's vicinity, perhaps cascading along Elm (pavement strikes were reported behind and ahead of the limousine). Certainly, the fragment was nearly spent as its impact barely chipped (if at all) the curbstone.

Other contentious aspects of Case Closed:

- Thorburn's Position (an involuntary shoulder reflex just happened to bring the hands to the throat wound site?)
- heap snap models requiring neuromuscular reaction and jet effect (couldn't the depressed head simply rebound off the chest?) [38]
- Bonnie Ray Williams leaving the sixth floor at 12:05 (before Jarman and Norman were on the fifth)
- dismissal of Arnold Rowland
- failure to address admission from Coleman and Slawson of hearing rough CIA tapes of Oswald speaking to the Soviet embassy.

Posner's chapters on Oswald's history, Jack Ruby, and the assassination industry are revealing. He may have even closed the case on the Jim Garrison investigation, embraced by most critics in 1967 and again in 1990-91, this time a gross Hollywood reincarnation.

**The Critics.** Professor Rose (p. 10) also cries foul when Posner gives critics a mild taste of their own vituperation. Typically, the worst abuse in Case Closed towards critics flows from their own ranks. Such personal attack among the researchers is designed to intimidate while diverting scrutiny of their pet theories. Few of the so-called scholars have read the Warren Report thoroughly, let alone perform objective primary research or hold other theorists to basic standards.

Veteran investigative reporters know there is nothing to the claims of conspiracy buffs, and that any effort to correct the record will only draw charges of cover-up. Thankfully, courageous investigators like Jim Moore, Gerald Posner, NOVA and Frontline are willing to be subjected to abuse to deliver the truth to the American public.

Notes

1. Facts acknowledged most recently on: "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?," Frontline, PBS, November 16, 1993.
2. Report of the Warren Commission, (Bantam, 1964), p. 127.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 126.
4. In his review of Posner's U.S. News & World Report adaptation, Gary Mack jumps an inch each way: adding an inch to the disassembled rifle, subtracting an inch from the space allegedly taken up on the seat. (November 1993, p. 14)
5. Gerald Posner, Case Closed, (Random House, 1993), p. 272; Warren Report, p. 522.
6. Posner, p. 277; Howard Roffman, Presumed Guilty, (A.S. Barnes, 1975), pp. 185-86.
7. Warren Report, p. 141.
8. Sylvia Meagher, Accessories After the Fact, (Vintage, 1976), p. 74. I have been unable to substantiate a report that the Coke in hand "was one of the details announced by Chief of Police Jesse Curry on Saturday, November 23." (*Ibid.*)
9. Jim Marrs, Crossfire, (Carroll & Graf, 1992), p. 52.
10. Letter from Bob Porter, The Sixth Floor, February 16, 1994. This visual is currently in storage, pending construction of archival facilities.
11. David Lifton, Best Evidence, (Carroll & Graf, 1991), pp. 10, 35, photo 6. Clear reproductions of Nix frame and Moorman photo: UPI & American Heritage Magazine, Four Days, (Simon and Schuster, 1964), pp. 18-19, 21. Bond photos appear in LIFE, November 24, 1967, p. 95.
12. The supposition that boxes in the Oswald window were moved within minutes of the assassination is totally false.
13. In the cajoling of delegates on the day JFK received the nomination in 1960, Lyndon Johnson obliquely referred to his opponent's father by saying: "I was never any Chamberlain umbrella man." (Victor Lasky, JFK: The Man and the Myth, [Macmillan, 1963], p. 395.) While the motorcade was on Main, a woman with an umbrella caused an agent on Halfback to go to the Presidential limousine. (Gary Savage, JFK First Day Evidence. [The Shoppe Press, 1993], p. 362).
14. "The Man Behind the Wall," The Third Decade, January 1991, pp. 27-29.
15. "Who Shot President Kennedy?," NOVA, PBS, November 15, 1988, p. 13 of transcript. Ulric Shannon nominates Badgeman as the "city officer" Deputy Sheriff Mabra encountered behind the fence (The Third Decade, Jan 93, p. 14) but this could have also been Officer J.W. Foster who ran through the parking lot from the underpass.
16. "Who Really Killed President Kennedy?," Geraldo, November 18, 1991. Marilyn Sitzman recently passed away.
17. Addendum to Proceedings of the Second Research Conference of The Third Decade, 1993, p. 30. The "blood" angle apparently came from Jean Hill's vivid recollections in which she describes a "trail of blood in the grass just to the right of the steps." The red droplets led her to a discarded Sno-Cone. (Marrs, p. 323). Harrison Livingstone, High Treason 2 (Carroll & Graf, 1992, p. 90) extends the misperception to a November 22, 1963 AP report of a Secret Service agent having been killed; but that rumor was corrected the same day. (Lifton, p. 679; n. 19 on p. 742).
18. Frontline, 1993; 35 sec after Zapruder film sequence ends, 65 sec before Failure Analysis animation begins. Immediately before this, footage of the parking lot search show a



parked passenger train there, no doubt the one Jesse Price saw. (Posner, p. 254)

19. 2 HSCA 170.

20. "JFK Autopsy Doctor Admits Sketch Error," AP of Nov. 24, 1966. Boswell recently affirmed: "use only the measurements next to the diagram and not the marks... (which) are not to be considered accurate by any means." (Livingstone, p. 195). Critics also cite Dr. Burkley's T3 positioning in the Certificate of Death, but this could be based on Secret Service impressions (whom Burkley also relies upon for the President's condition at Parkland).

21. Frontline, 1993; immediately prior to Bronson film sequence.

22. 6 HSCA 43. See present text Figure 2. I have been unable to resolve why the Pathology Panel designated a "level" transit at autopsy while the Clark Panel (and Figure 4) define a downward trajectory.

23. 6 HSCA 46. Robert Cutler claims a bullet "must be fired from a position at least 28 degrees to the right of the midline" to avoid striking the spine. But his drawing (JN2) models an upper cervical vertebra, too anterior for the first thoracic vertebra where the spinous process can be felt just below the skin on the nape. Since Kennedy's torso was turned about 5 degrees, it was "concluded the bullet was moving from right to left by 13 degrees relative to the midline of the limousine." (6 HSCA 46)

24. *Ibid.* Motorcade footage shows Kennedy sitting comfortably slouched forward and, during at least one stop, twisted sideways to shake hands with bystanders. His back brace, worn at the waist, may not be as restrictive as some suggest. Perhaps it was worn as a preventative measure, to be tightened should his back pain flare up.

25. Posner, p. 479.

26. Warren Report, p. 96: 5/8 x 1/4" (1.5 x 0.7 cm).

27. 1 HSCA 259. Shaw testified the entrance wound was "approximately a centimeter and a half in its greatest diameter," but his Operative Record said "approximately three cm in its longest diameter." (Warren Report, p. 493) The clothing holes infer 1.5 cm was the wound's maximum value.

28. Jim Moore likens Connally's jump seat to a "stadium seat," making full turns in either direction difficult. However, just after the lung collapse, the Governor manages to turn his head fully around to check the President.

29. Posner, p. 329. On the following page, Posner claims the "movement of the jacket took place at the exact area where the Governor's suit and shirt have a bullet hole," although the exit site on the chest is some distance from the lapel. It's possible the bullet momentarily tugged the jacket to the point where the lapel overturned. It's also possible the violent jerk of his injured forearm caused the right side of his jacket to

simply bulge out.

30. Lifton, p. 558; Livingstone, pp. 304-05, 312.

31. 4 H 122. Gregory may be transposing the number from the bone fragments removed: two.

32. Robert Groden and Harrison Edward Livingstone, High Treason, (Berkley, 1990), p. 74.

33. 1 HSCA 496. Critics charge Guinn didn't test the same "fragments" used in the 1964 FBI NAA test; but only "samples" (tiny shavings)—not the actual fragment—used by the FBI were not returned to the Archives, possibly because of their radioactivity. (1 HSCA 562)

34. 1 HSCA 496.

35. 1 HSCA 532. Key elements in bullet lead are antimony, silver and, to a lesser degree, copper. Guinn testified: "For the sake of completeness, I have included all of the elements detected, but I don't think that some of them contribute one way or the other to the characterization of source of the specimens." (1 HSCA 566)

36. 1 HSCA 407.

37. Warren Report, p. 535.

38. 1 HSCA 414; Testimony of Larry Sturdivan: "It would have a slight movement toward the front, which would very rapidly be damped by the connection of the neck with the body."

**Editor's note:** It is my expectation that various of the authors whose work is criticized in this article will respond with Letters to the Editor. Since I have not started (yet) to write letters to myself, I'll use this opportunity to comment on one of the more provocative of Mr. Organ's statements: that a frame from "the Patsy Paschall film at the Sixth Floor Exhibit" shows part of a train on the overpass as the presidential limousine is about to go under it. In my paper for the Third Decade conference at Providence last summer ("Dance of the Railroad Men") I commented on the likely "prevarication" of Dallas policeman J.C. White, stationed on the west side of the overpass, who said that he did not see or hear the shooting because a "large noisy" train was passing between his position and Dealey Plaza at the time. In Posner's book, as noted in Gary Mack's critical review, this same questionable train was used to discredit the eyewitness testimony of Ed Hoffman of seeing gunmen behind the picket fence. I am not sure that the version of the Sixth Floor Exhibit film that I possess corresponds to the one referred to by Organ, but a viewing of my version certainly does seem to show some boxcars on the overpass at the relevant time. In going back to Posner, I find that he says (p. 258) that "photographs and independent testimony reveal that there were four large freight cars over the Elm Street tunnel that day" to obstruct Hoffman's view. His references for this assertion?—testimonies of Eugene Moore at vol. 3 p. 294 and of Earle Brown at vol. 6 p. 233 of the Warren Report and (sic!)



AGUIAR SAID (he has it on tape)  
that Posner never spoke with James Brownell  
(Gary Verbody 4/1/94)

interview with Jim Moore, March 4 and 13, 1992. Brown, a police officer stationed on the Stemmons Freeway Overpass 100 yards west of the Triple Overpass, actually says that his view of the area was obstructed because they were moving trains "in and out" of the railroad yards; there is nobody named Eugene Moore who is even indexed in vol. 15 of the Report and Jim Moore was neither an eyewitness nor a photographer. So a lot hinges, really, on what the Paschall film actually does show. My own mind on the matter is settled (for now at least) upon viewing a film by F.M. Bell at p. 243 of the paperback edition of Josiah Thompson's Six Seconds in Dallas. The same objects that seemed to be boxcars in the Paschall (?) film are seen in this picture, but the objects are clearly beyond the overpass, since both the east and west edges of the overpass structure are visible in front of the objects. I am almost certain now that what appeared to be boxcars in Paschall are buildings in the distance and/or highway direction signs near the entrance to the Stemmons Freeway. The Bond films may, as Organ suggests, show a train stopped on a siding, but this is quite another matter than the Posner/Organ assertion of a train passing at the time of the shooting—if anything like this did happen, it appears to have escaped the notice of every eyewitness except J.C. White and every photograph that has yet surfaced.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### To the Editor:

It may be of interest to your readers that Carroll & Graf has published a long-awaited condensation of Harold Weisberg's work on the John Kennedy assassination entitled Selections From Whitewash. An oversize trade paperback offered at \$16.95, this would be a valuable addition to anyone's library as a handy reference book, and in particular to the person who is just beginning to research this topic. For the collector, or someone wishing more detail, the full collection of six books by Weisberg on the Kennedy assassination are available from him, as is the price list, by writing to him at 7627 Old Receiver Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702.

Last year, a new edition of his book Frame-up, about the Martin Luther King assassination and the role of James Earl Ray in that murder, was also published in full under a different title. That offering is also paperback, and the original Frame-up is still available from Weisberg in hard bound.

I would not be surprised if this is not the last we hear from Mr. Weisberg.

In a letter published in your last issue (Vol. 1, No. 2, January, 1994), among other items, I mentioned that I had written to Gerald Posner in conjunction with my earlier review of his

book Case Closed, and had been told by another researcher not to expect a reply. Up to the time of writing the letter to the editor, that had been the case.

To Posner's credit, and it can certainly be said that he has been busy the past few months, he wrote a hand-written reply dated December 12.

Essentially he apologized for not having written sooner and gave an indication that he had read reviews in The Fourth Decade. He said he was "working on an updated and revised edition of CC for the paperback to be published next September." He said he would address most issues raised in The Fourth Decade in that forum. He also said he would try to specifically respond at a later time to the specific points raised in my review.

While this does not convince me to agree with some of the conclusions in his book, it is refreshing to see the responsiveness to criticism in a positive and non-defensive manner; something we don't always see in the critical research community. This kind of exchange can help foster critical thinking and rethinking, and hopefully lead to getting closer to the truth.

—David Keck, 868 Chelsea Lane, Westerville, OH 43081-2716

### To the Editor:

Gary Mack's attack on Gerald Posner in the November, 1993, issue seems to leave Mack himself vulnerable.

With respect to the well-beaten, dead horse of acoustics, the following comes to mind:

1) Surely Mack agrees that the precise source of the sounds on the police Dictabelt recording is unknown. The House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that the stuck microphone belonged to the motorcycle of Officer H.B. McLain, who disputed that assumption. (See the USGPO edition of the HSCA Report, pp. 75-79.) Bolstering McLain is the detailed, photographic survey by Sim Heninger that was printed in the July, 1990, issue of The Third Decade. Heninger found there was no way McLain's motorcycle could have been in the proper position to make the recording.

2) Oddly, Mack himself is responsible for the dissemination of one of the better rebuttals to the conspiratorial interpretation of acoustics. The very first issue of his now-defunct newsletter Coverups! (July, 1982) reprinted an April 14, 1982, Dallas Morning News story by none other than Earl Golz. In it, Golz pointed out that the supervisor of the DPD radio system in 1963, James C. Bowles, had long suspected a microphone problem occurred not in Dealey Plaza but in the area of the Trade Mart, miles away. Bowles refused to name one of the two motorcycle patrolmen whom he considered possible candidates—the man was "in very declining health"—but the other was identified as Leslie Beilharz. Beilharz