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Hal Verb
P.O. Box 421815
S.F., Ca. 94142-1815

10/23/93

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21702

Dear Hal:

I'm replying to the recent letters you sent me dated 10/9/93 & 10/18/93 and will attempt to answer all the questions you asked of me in those letters.

On the question of who Posner's father was (as you indicated he is "a union official in S.F.") I've not yet contacted any of my union friends to find out more. When I do, I'll advise you further.

On the question of G. Posner going to a Berkeley law school as an honor student this most likely must be the Boalt Law School. The one in S.F., I believe, is Hastings Law School. I've not yet had time to look up the Boalt school records to learn more. Now with the point you raised about that Posner went to a school (law) in Erie, Pa. which you recalled as being "Gannon": I did find something on that university that may be of help to you. According to the 1982 edition of "The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Institutions - Private Colleges and Universities" by John F. Ohles & Shirley M. Ohles (Vol. 1 - ~~from~~ A to M), p.458, Gannon University was originally "Cathedral College" (1933) and its name was changed to Gannon in 1979. If you wish to write or call them here is the address & phone: Gannon University, Perry Square, Erie, Pa. 16541 . Phone: # ~~514-456-7523~~ 814-456-7523.

Gannon was started as a men's college under Archbishop John Mark Gannon and it became fully co-educational in 1965. The edition describes Gannon as "a private, coeducational, residential and commuter university related to the Roman Catholic Church". This recalls to mind a comment I overheard by someone in the audience when Posner spoke at Green Apple Bookstore at which I, Aguilar and Hoch were present. The comment was that Gerald Posner as a youth had gone to a private Catholic school. I didn't ask this person for more information but I remember musing to myself, "What's a nice Jewish boy doing going to a Catholic school?" I thought that, perhaps, Posner's mother could have been Catholic and she got Posner to attend a Catholic school. This is pure speculation on my part but then when I read that Gannon is "related to the Roman Catholic Church" it appears there may well be a pattern being set here that the son may not have been able to have avoided.

I also looked up the ~~new~~ current Marquis "Who's Who in America" (1992-1993), 47th edition, but could not find his name in it. I also checked to see if he were listed in a California authors listing but could find nothing there. I'll do a more intensive search at the library when I next visit there.

One other interesting fact that should be of further help to you is that when I was at the Green Apple Books Aguilar told me that Gerald Posner's mother showed up. Aguilar didn't want Gerald to know that, in fact, Aguilar had known Mrs. Posner as he had operated on her when the family all lived in San Francisco. I don't think Aguilar knew Gerald personally then but you should get in touch with Dr. Aguilar to learn more about the Posner family. Aguilar has said that he did not want it known that he knew Mrs. Posner since he was now a critic of Posner's book ~~but~~ but now that the son knows that Aguilar knows his mother there's no reason to keep this as a "secret" any longer.

With respect to your 10/18 letter: On the Belin thing in which I had mentioned that Posner had sharply and quickly rejected my suggestion that Belin appear in Dallas on the panel with him and I said that there must be something between the two that ~~rankled~~ rankled Posner and you wrote I may have something in this I believe I did find evidence for this. If you have Posner's book, check page 273. In a footnote there he talks about Belin's "draft of the Warren Report" that "did not make it into the final publication". The footnote refers to Oswald's alleged movements immediately after the assassination. What is interesting to me is that it indicated that Posner had to have seen this "draft" and Belin must've provided it for him. Would Belin have ordinarily ~~just~~ just given this "draft" to anyone requesting it? I think not which suggests that if, indeed, Belin did turn over the "draft" he would've known to whom he was giving this to. Belin probably checked up on Posner and he was then "ok" as they used to say about Oswald at various times. Possibly Posner may have found something in the "draft" he couldn't accept (as you put it, "crap") and this is where the disagreement between the two may very well lie.

I also think it ironic that the latest brochure from the "ASK" Symposium now lists Jim Moore as one of the speakers and I know that Posner could not have been the one to have suggested him. This now leads me to believe that Posner will never appear as a panelist since he voiced objections to me that he didn't want him. How would it look if I were to confront Posner in Dallas on this point? The two would've been totally embarrassed by the truth and neither could effectively have recovered from it.

You'll also see that from the brochure (a copy ~~of~~ of which is enclosed) that Dr. Robert Artwohl is on the Symposium list. If you'll recall he was one of the doctors in JAMA who very strongly defended the autopsy doctors and he appeared at the Chicago Conference in April, 1993. Obviously he will be on the medical panel as will David Lifton and I note that a Randy Robertson is listed and he most likely will be a medical panelist. He gave a very interesting video and talk in Chicago at that April, 1993 conference where he provided evidence for a double hit to JFK's head. He is a radiologist and I have a tape of his talk.

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Aguilar just phoned me and I mentioned to him that you might call him about the Posner family. Aguilar will also be in Dallas at the Symposium as you can see from the brochure.

Please note the Wall St. Journal article enclosed (dated 10/18/93). I'm more than curious to learn more about Hosty's "unpublished manuscript". It would appear that the reporter saw it even if he gave it only a cursory glance. The article is really a "puff" piece and it is obvious from the way it is written that he knows little about the evidence in the case. How, for example, could he have let appear in the article that Oswald allegedly met with Kostikov "before Mr. Kennedy scheduled his trip to Dallas"? I note also that the reporter ~~(Farney)~~ (Farney) took Hosty's word that with respect to an FBI report on Hosty's name being omitted as being in Oswald's notebook it all boiled down to an agent doing "a favor" in having the name appear at all. Imagine what Hosty would do if he were confronted by Posner ~~who~~ who when referring to this notebook event said that the omission was due to the fact that the fellow agent was only reporting "leads" in the report thus directly contradicting Hosty's ~~own~~ "surmise". Where else but the FBI could Posner have gotten such a statement? Posner and Hosty should get together and "compare notes".

One of the interesting things, though, in this article that I'd not heard before is the mention of the "Solo Source" where Hosty says that the Chi's brothers, as important Communists Party officials, treasurer and editor, were FBI informants. It is no wonder that Oswald never, apparently, contacted any of the 5 or 6 Communists in the Dallas area when he was living there. He didn't have to - the FBI already knew enough about the CP and didn't need anyone ^{else} to spy any ~~far~~ further. Is it any wonder, then, why Oswald was spying on or attempting to infiltrate ~~the~~ right-wing and anti-Castro groups? No, because the left-wing groups were either non-existent, small or well infiltrated. That much seems fairly obvious and Hosty's revelation adds proof to what I'm contending. It all makes sense when you look at the Dallas scene more closely. The Dallas FBI could quite properly say that they were as surprised as anyone that they had no reason to suspect Oswald of killing JFK. Their own files would reflect that.

When I was at Hoch's place recently a researcher showed me two thick bound volumes of LBJ's transcripts of phone conversations & meetings LBJ had for Nov. & Dec. 1963. These were used for the book he wrote, "The Vantage Point", but I did not get a chance to look through them. Have you seen any of it?

I've heard that David HALBERSTAM ~~is doing~~ is doing a book on Ruby but know nothing more.

The CBS special in November will be called "The ~~Final~~ Final Chapter" and Dan Rather will narrate it.

One final note: a researcher told me that a woman from Washington is spending a lot of time in the Archives taking "boxes and boxes" of newly released documents on the photo evidence. You may want to call her, Her name is: Anna Marie Kuhns-Walko & her phone is #202-574-0586.

Must end here to get this in the mail.

Best,
Hue