Hal Verb
PO Box 421815
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9/13/93

Dear Hal,

Thanks for your 9/11 and its useful enclosures. Please keep to yourself that I am writing a book on Posner, five chapters completed in draft, about 25,000 words, and I now do not want to be bothered by any questions or trigger any problems. I am trying to spend all the time I can on the writing and as little as possible on letters. What I tell another in the copy enclosed is an enormous understatement. And in what I have already written I start going into why he makes no mention of O in NO. There will be more. And I'll welcome anything you send, thanks. Holt in this batch confirms what I finally decided last week, that Posner had to have taken one half of the Failure Analysis job for AMA. If you can please send me their address I'd like to write them. Holt's is the sharpest observation I've read. And at that it is shild's play demolishing the FA case Posner uses.

I've started a file on the 30th anniversary and if and when you have time I'd like anything on any book for it and for the future. I knew that Crouch was doing a book but did not know it was arranged for.

I sent Aguilar a PM by priority mail. He should have it today.

I have no info. on when my NEVER AGAIN! will appear and I'm not even asking. I want to use all the time that remains for me for writing.

I have no reason to believe the CIA made any Z analysis 11/22/63 and am inclined to believe it could not have.

What the Dallas paper quotes me as having said sounds right.

That anybody else had Jackson's memoire I did not know. I'd like to compare that with the one I have had for yars.

One thing you should have spotted accounts for his making no mention of O in NO is what you were there for, that caller-in on the Joe Dolan show who said Oswald had Crypto clearance. I'll be going into that, too. Another is what he omitted that I have in PM on what Nosenko told the FBI. He had that interview and came out of it with only scrimshaw. He intended it to promote the book only.

If you or Paul have any clippings on that AMA thing out there I might find some use for what was reported on Failure Analysis.

Thanks and best,

Harold

Hal Verb
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September 11, 1993

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
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Dear Hal:

A few days ago Dr. Gary Aguilar borrowed my copy of your book, "Post-Mortem", and told me that he was going to order a copy for himself. Aguilar said that he had been in touch with you by phone and he very briefly discussed with me the Gerald Posner affair. As I understand it he supposedly zeroxed some 700 or so pages of your documents and presumably stayed at your place. Posner seems to have made the rounds of others as I note he quotes Wrone, Dave Perry and others. I find it very difficult to accept Posner's claim that when he started out he had not made up his mind as to Oswald's guilt. His book seems proof enough that this was not the case.

I am, in fact, building a file on Posner and when I write to others I ask for any material on (or by) him. Included with this letter are articles on him in the local press. As you can see, not everyone agrees with his incredible assertion that the case is closed. Generally, those who accept Posner's position are those who know next to nothing about the case or those who care very little as to what the facts are. His book is really nothing but a prosecution brief with a little Perry Mason thrown in to dramatize the proceedings. But life is not a Perry Mason trial and it doesn't appear that Posner is having his way.

A friend called me the other day and said that Posner failed to put in an appearance on a talk show which Michael Krasney holds in the morning on radio about 10 a.m.(KQED-FM). According to my friend Krasney would not state over the air why Posner refused. (My guess is that KRasney might have asked Posner if he would agree to answer questions from writers such as yourself and he wouldn't go along with it. By the way, I've zeroxed all the references Posner devotes to you in his book and enclosed a copy. You may or may not have a copy of his book but with this copy I'm sending you, at least you'll have handy an immediate reference copy of whatever he said about you).

I note that when he includes a bibliography of your works on page 583 he left out "Oswald in New Orleans". But on page 11 of his book he points out that you are the author of 6 books. So why the omission? This could well be deliberate and not likely accidental. One could almost say a pattern is being developed here and that is to avoid discussing important and highly significant areas that Posner does not want to touch on (as Oswald's possible intelligence connections, Castro's suspicions of such , etc.). Nowhere in Posner's entire book does he seriously even consider it. This cannot be because he is unaware of it but precisely because he is aware of it, in my opinion.

Posner is also thoroughly deficient in the photographic evidence and knowledge of it. I would doubt that he could reasonably

draw up a rationale to explain away the Willis, Altgens and Betzner photos taken just after or before the shots fired. Imagine him "explaing" away the Hughes, Bronson, Dillard and Powell photos indicating nothing of importance happening at the time shots were to be fired or were fired from that alleged sixth floor window perch. (Where is that "smoking gun when you really need it?!).

As long as Im discussing the photographic evidence I should mention that at the upcoming Dallas symposium to be held from November 18 to 22 I will be heading up the " Photographic Evidence Panel" and they are giving that panel 3 hours on Saturday morning, Nov. 20th. My aim is to discuss the history of how the Warren Commission, the House Select Committee handled the evidence and the deficiencies in their approach. As I did in [redacted] Chicago last April, I will mention your work and I will be using [redacted] slides to illustrate my points. I am now in the process of contacting other researchers who've done some very good work in this area and hope to have them appear on the panel with me.

I was hoping that at the Dallas Symposium I would be able to make use of the Richard E. Sprague photo collection but it may not be possible. If you are not aware of it a Peter Martin had promised to send about 30 researchers copies of the Sprague set after collecting money from all of us. So far he has failed to deliver and a number of the 30-odd persons have initiated a class action suit against Martin. I have been asked to join the suit but so far I've resisted because Martin has assured me that he will complete his deal in September. I don't know if he'll come through as the Sprague set will be of great value when the time comes for me to head the panel presentation. I do have in my own possession roughly one hundred slides but the Sprague set would be the crucial ones to show.

I was on a radio program on July 31st (Pacifica's KPFA station) and discussed among other things that a number of books were either in the process of being published or had been published and I mentioned a total of eleven. I did not mention your name on the air as you asked me not [redacted] to mention the book you were working on. But since that date I've learned of about 14 more books and I'm going to list very briefly all of the 25 I've come up with so that you can be aware of them. Some you may already know of but here they are, anyway. They are in no particular order but just as my notes have recorded them: (1)Cyril Wecht (on the autopsy, due Fall, 1993), (2) W. Anthony Marsh,"First Day Evidence", (3) John Davis, "Kennedy Contract"[redacted],(4)Mark Crouch, "Absence of Responsibility", (5) John Connally, (6)"The Armchair Detective. Your Guide through [redacted] the Maze of the J.F.K. Assassination" by Brian Sprinkle and James Butman, 1992, (7) Peter Dale Scott, (8)Dr. Fetzer and other doctors, including Dr. Gary Aguilar on the medical evidence. Aguilar told me about this and says he's completed 70 pages of text for the volume. If Aguilar tells me more, I'll advise you further.

(9)Marita Lorenz, (10) [redacted] Robert Groden, "The Killing of a President", due Fall, 1993, (11) Gerald Posner, "Case Closed", (12) Mike Sylwester, "The Hole that Disappeared from the Back of President Kennedy's Head". Mike is a former air force intelligence major, (13) Norman Mailer, on Oswald, non-fiction. Posner claims Mailer bought the alleged KGB file on Oswald. Mailer, incidentally, will be the key-note speaker at the November, 1993 Dallas Symposium. The scuttlebutt I hear is that President Clinton may show on 11/22/93 to dedicate a memorial to JFK right in Dealey Plaza, (14) Vincent Palamera, "Survivor's [redacted] Guilt"---The Secret Service and the JFK Murder", (15) Bob Callahan "Who Shot JFK?", an anthology of the various conspiracy theories, (16) David Lifton on Oswald scheduled for 1993 but now due out in 1994, (17) John Woods II, "JFK Assassination Photographs - Comprehensive Listing." 687 pages. Only 50 copies available (I have a copy, dated 1993). (18) John Woods II, working on a second book but not on the photos, (19) Harry Livingstone, "Killing the Truth: Deceit and Deception in the JFK case", Due in Fall, 1993. In this one he takes on the writers, critics, [redacted] etc. and tries to "prove" how everyone is preventing him from establishing what the "final solution" is. Kangas-types will love it and Posner fans will point their accusing fingers and say we all lie in the same bed together. I can just hear them now on the talk radio programs delighting in this "Jurassic Park" fantasy, (20) [redacted] Jim DiEugenio, title & subject unknown, (21) Seymour Hersh. I believe this could also be a book on Oswald. I need to check this out., (22) Beverly Oliver, in collaboration with Coke Buchanan. She claims she wants to set the record straight about the many claims made against her. Coke is with the Dallas JFK Center, I believe., (23) Philip Hemenway, "Riding the Tiger's Back: A Footnote to the Assassination of JFK", 1992, (24) "High Treason", A re-issue of the first book by Groden & Livingstone, (25) Gaeton Fonzi, "The Last Investigation". I guess this will be about Gaeton's experiences with the HSCA in the late 1970's. Gaeton is alwaya interesting to read and a very nice person to meet. I met him twice in Dallas and Chicago.

Those are the 25 books and if you include the book you are working on that would make it 26. By the way, how is the book going and if it is near completion? I'd like to send you money and order two copies if that can be arranged.

Regarding Woods book noted above as item (17) in my notes I came across this memo from Martin Shackleford regarding the NPIC analysis of the Z-film which some maintain was [redacted] done the evening of 11/22/63. (Some writers have pointed to a mention by the NPIC of the words "that night" and concluded that this must be a reference to 11/22/63 and not another day with the inference attached that the NPIC could then conceivably have altered the original film). But Shackelford states, "the NPIC analysis was not done that evening, but later (see my Zapruder chronology)." Do you know if Shackelford is correct about this? STATING I've written to him to see if he can document his reasons for this.

There are a few other items I came across while going through my notes and I'd like your comments on them.

First, I came across a Dallas Morning News article dated 9/18/81 which was on you and titled, "FBI lied on JFK, Author Says" by Mark Nelson who was then of the Washington Bureau of the Dallas Morning News. Here I'm quoting from the very end of the article:

"Weisberg also told Dallas FBI agents failed to tell superiors in Washington that one Dallas motorcycle police officer, D.L. Jackson, actually had seen Connally hit by a separate bullet.

"Although the FBI interviewed Jackson in 1975, it [redacted] did not get a copy of a report he wrote at home the night of the assassination, Weisberg said.

"Although the Warren Report concluded only three shots were fired at Kennedy from the 6th floor window of the TSBD, Weisberg said at least four shots were fired."

The reason that I bring up this Jackson report and your comments on it is that as I was going through James Bowles the Dallas sheriff and his 1979 report rebutting the HSCA acoustical analysis I found this comment by him (on page 51 of his ms):"(Jackson) wrote a journal recording his observations that same day, suggesting the 'single bullet theory' before [redacted] there was one. He, too, was interviewed but his testimony was neither used nor impeached."

However, when I examined the unedited Jackson report which Bowles prints in his rebuttal I can find no mention whatsoever that Jackson had even "suggested" this in any way. Why would Bowles make such a statement that cannot be true invoking Jackson?

A further reason for bringing this up is that Posner makes use of Bowles in his book and the TV program "20/20" when it did a program on the Posner book trotted out Bowles in support of Posner. Posner even quotes Bowles in "Case Closed" on page 241 regarding the bell sound heard on the dictatape. Bowles alleges that the sound is one made by passerbys "rapping" a Liberty Bell replica at the Trade Mart. But an acoustics analyst I've talked to says it is not due to that but is really an electronic hum. It might be compared to a photographic anomaly in a movie film. [redacted] Is this the kind of stuff Posner uses to bolster his case which the U.S. News & World Report finds "incontrovertible"?!

And one final note before I close out this long letter. Again, while going through some old material I found this one [redacted] in an issue of "Coverups!" (1983):

"...the Wesley Frazier interview, for example, in his first in at least 8 years - and now he says LHO asked for a ride home on Wednesday 11/20, not Thursday as he told the WC... also, Frazier still doubts LHO did it, but the reporter didn't ask why."

I think that if, indeed, the ride was taken on 11/20 it puts a different perspective on the case that can't be ignored. Also, it would be interesting to know why Frazier persists in doubting Oswald's guilt when Frazier's own [redacted] testimony was used as "evidence" against Oswald. Perhaps Dave Perry can enlighten us on this [redacted] score as he has become a very good friend of Frazier. Who knows?

well, must close now. Do keep in touch and the very best to you and your wife.

Hal