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OUTLOOK

SCIENCE & SOCIETY

THE JFK DEBATE GETS 'CASE CLOSED,' THE MOVIE

Ever since Oliver Stone made his film *JFK* in 1991, those who believe that Lee Oswald was solely responsible for John F. Kennedy's murder have felt technologically disadvantaged. Stone used Hollywood stars, brilliant direction, masterly film editing and a highly fictionalized script to depict the president's death as the work of a vast government conspiracy. Now, the lone-gunner school is preparing to fire back, using Stone's own medium. Veteran producer David L. Wolper will dramatize Gerald Posner's bestselling book, *Case Closed*, for NBC, turning it into either a two-hour movie or a four-hour miniseries. The Posner book, excerpted in the August 30-September 6 issue of *U.S.*



Two views. Stone (left) filmed a JFK murder conspiracy, challenged by Posner in a book and soon a movie.

News, is "an antidote to all the Mafia plots, Cuban plots, CIA plots and every plot," says Wolper. "Oliver Stone is a great filmmaker, but his theory is baloney."

Posner will be a focal point of the TV movie much as District Attorney Jim Garrison was a central figure in Stone's film. An actor portraying the 39-year-old lawyer will track the truth while conspiracy theorists hurl challenges at every turn. That will require no stretch. Conspiracy believers have subjected Posner to abusive phone calls and urged broadcast interviewers to shun him; the blackout efforts flopped. He has been on ABC's "20/20," NBC's "Today" and CNN's "Crossfire"; will appear on PBS and CBS in November, and routinely does several talk-radio shows a day.

The network premiere of Stone's film is expected on NBC in the fall of '94; Wolper's "Case Closed" could nip right at its heels. Proof of the perfect impartiality of Hollywood profit motives: Wolper's production company is a subsidiary of Warner Brothers, the same studio that unleashed Stone's *JFK*.