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The Editor
Listener
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Dear Sir,

In reference to the piece on page 9 of the 15 January 1994 LISTENER headed "SO, WHO SHOT THE CONSPIRACY THEORISTS?" may I offer an answer? In short and unambiguous language, 'NOBODY' (and certainly not Gerald Posner). If ever a book was misnamed, it is CASE CLOSED. I consider myself better informed than most on the subject of the JFK assassination, and I can say CASE CLOSED is the most biased, and dishonestly biased, book on this subject I have read.

It concerns me that your staff writer seems so uninformed as to swallow Gerald Posner's line along with the hook and sinker. This book has received nothing but uncritical praise from the world's press, unprecedented for a book on the JFK assassination, and has been actively promoted by the CIA who endorse its conclusions (which in itself says quite a lot about it). Surely it is time news media people, your staff writer for one, took a little time to research subjects like this before pronouncing on the worth of books such as by Posner or Robert Groden (THE KILLING OF A PRESIDENT).

Posner's book puts forward the very same conclusions of the discredited Warren Commission, dressed up with allegedly new evidence and meaningless computer graphics. Posner even gives a new twist to the puzzle of what happened to the bullet the Commission said had missed- he has Oswald "almost certainly" firing at the President through the foliage of an oak tree! (Yes, by this amazing solution Oswald is supposed to have fired an aimed shot while the presidential limousine was almost wholly obscured behind an oak tree!) Sadly Groden's book is not much better, with a risky mix of fact and speculation, although I would say at least it is worth buying, just for the photos.

What is 'spooky' about these two books arriving as review copies on your writer's desk at the same time? They are but two of some thirty titles dealing with aspects of the assassination I am aware were published to coincide with the thirtieth anniversary. In my opinion, both authors take extreme positions (more so Posner) in regard to what is known to be real and true about the assassination of President J.F. Kennedy.

Yours faithfully

Dal McGuirk

THANKSHOOTING STAR



SO, WHO SHOT THE CONSPIRACY THEORISTS?

It had to happen. After 30 years of conspiracy theories that once made your head spin with their implications, the most shocking thing you can say about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is that Oswald acted alone. No CIA, no anti-Castro Cubans, no military-industrial complex, no mafia, no Oliver Stone. Just the lone schmuck, as author Gerald Posner has tried to prove in his recently published (and brilliant) *Case Closed* (Penguin). But wait. Another book, *The Killing of a President* (Hodder Headline), which documents in grizzly technicolour everything from the nightmare in Dealey Plaza to the scene of the autopsy, has emerged at *precisely the same time*. Spooky or what? The latter is the work of arch conspiracy-theorist Robert Groden, who advised director Oliver Stone in the making of his epic *JFK*. Stone writes the foreword to Groden's

book. *Even spookier*. No crazy stone is left unturned, from the mysterious "umbrella man" and "badge man" photos to the so-called "magic bullet", which caused six separate wounds in two people, then fell off a stretcher at Parkside Hospital in Dallas. Trouble is, as Posner relentlessly shows, an awful lot of the conspiracy material is as selective and dubious as anything in the Warren Commission report, and Oliver Stone's film is no exception — right down to turning the paranoid thug, Jim Garrison, into a hero played by Kevin Costner. On the other hand, Groden's lavish tome is certainly one of the least tasteful coffee-table books ever released, and makes compelling skimming. Together, these books represent the most comprehensive reviews of both sides of the debate. Our advice — buy both and satisfy both sides of your soul.