

## SEARCHER SEEKS Oswald, CIA link

By CHAUNCEY MABE

Book Editor

South Florida has its own highly credentialed assassination expert, and he says Gerald Posner's *Case Closed* is "a dishonest book."

Investigative journalist Gaeton Fonzi wrote his first article critical of the Warren Commission in 1965 when he was with *Philadelphia Magazine*. Not long afterward, he moved to South Florida where he has been associated as editor and writer with *Miami* magazine and *Gold Coast* magazine.

In the 1970s, Fonzi worked for three years as an investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, specializing in possible Miami connections to the JFK killing.

Although the committee went on record as concluding that Kennedy's death was the result of a conspiracy, Fonzi disliked what he considered its slant toward organized crime as the culprit.

In response, he wrote an 80,000-word article presenting his own evidence that first appeared in *The Washingtonian* magazine, and later, in a condensed form, in *Gold Coast*.

"What I believe is most important is the confirmation that Oswald was seen in the company of a CIA agent in Dallas," says Fonzi, who lives in northeast Dade County.

Antonio Veciana, founder of Alpha 66, the most violent of the anti-Castro Cuban exile groups, claims that during a trip to Dallas he saw Lee Harvey Oswald

with Maurice Bishop, Veciana's own CIA contact, two months before the assassination.

Sylvia Odio, another Cuban exile living in Dallas, also claims to have seen Oswald, this time in the company of two anti-Castro Cuban freedom fighters.

Fonzi believes Bishop was actually David Atlee Phillips, a high-ranking CIA agent who worked in Cuba, Mexico City (at the time Oswald allegedly visited the Soviet embassy there) and in Miami — where he was propaganda coordinator for the Bay of Pigs invasion. Phillips denied the allegation until his death.

"I personally think Gerald Posner is afraid of me because he doesn't know what I know," Fonzi says. "He called me two years ago and said my information was very interesting and he wanted to come down to do an interview. He didn't follow up."

Posner, says Fonzi, takes only one side in the case, ignoring evidence that undermines the theory that Oswald acted alone in shooting Kennedy.

"He uses FBI reports done for the Warren Commission that were later discredited by the House Select Committee," Fonzi says. "And he ignores the House Committee's validation of Sylvia Odio as a witness."

Fonzi says Posner's other sins include building up a portrait of Oswald as a nut desperate to attain a place in history. Yet after he was arrested, Oswald consistently denied shooting the president.

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As yet, I have not located this "fellow Floridian."



Gaeton Fonzi worked for the House assassinations probe. Photo/STEVEN HLAYAC