

June 30, 1994

Richard Gallen  
260 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mr. Gallen:

Last week I was visiting Harold Weisberg when your letter came relating to his manuscript *Never Again* and he showed it to me without comment. I then read it and was shocked and dismayed. You perhaps recall that I retyped *Never Again* on my computer. I also have a subject matter knowledge of the assassination and its various complexities that provided me with an informed opinion of the book as well as its place in history.

At any time this is a book of extraordinary historical importance. In terms of normal publishing standards its publication would provide an exceptional historical contribution to an understanding of our history that would be reflected in sales. Harold Weisberg's massive correspondence with men and women of all walks of life and types of relation to this subject and his sterling, indeed incredible reputation among citizenry that through the years I have had certain knowledge of and ample opportunity to witness, alone would sell the book in the many thousands of copies.

It could easily have had a stunning appeal before the torrent of disgusting bad books generated by the 30th anniversary of the murder. With that book, which all others of that group would have been compared by reviewers and others, its impact would certainly have been of book selling and historical importance. One must see this book in its historical context and its scholarly contribution. Delaying it even further is strongly suggestive of intent to diminish at the very least the value *Never Again* has to the United States and to history.

In connection with Harold Weisberg's work and importance to this critical subject and our history as a people in this nation of Abraham Lincoln's "Great Experiment", and directly related to the question of *Never Again* I would call your attention to *Case Open*. As he usually did Harold Weisberg sent me Xerox copies of rough drafts of the book as he wrote it; just a small fraction appeared in the

published book. My reaction to the manuscript upon reading it was, that aside from its marvelous and critical historical importance--I am a historian and speak as one--that with normal editing and formatting nothing unusual was required for that book to be published. It was worthy being submitted for a Pulitzer Prize in history. [I am not alone in this assessment.]

And, I call to your attention Mr. Gallen to the fact that no Pulitzer in history was awarded this year and that Posner's hoax was a candidate! Comparing the two, Case Closed and Case Open, would have been simply astonishing to the Pulitzer Committee. An event unparalleled in the history of the award and a publisher's dream for publicity for a book as exemplary as Case Open.

Reminding you again that I am a co-author of a standard bibliography in the field and an acknowledged expert in this complex and difficult area that I have spent twenty-five years of research on, that I serve as a referee for professional journals on the subject, and that I have an abiding and deep knowledge of the field, that aside from the unfairness to Harold Weisberg, Never Again is a book that ought not suffer any unusual delay in appearing. It is in the nation's interest and the public's imperative interest.

As a last comment I would observe that I believe that the Afterward in the book is the finest writing on the subject anywhere. It is of exceptional quality and profound perspective. Professor McKnight at Hood College shares my opinion and uses it as required reading in his courses. I will use it in my course on the assassination this autumn.

Sincerely,

David R. Wrone  
Professor of History