

Peter Skutches  
Richard Gallen & Co.  
260 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, NY 10001

3/24/94

Dear Peter,

I appreciate your letter of the 22d. If I had not suddenly tired this morning I would have written you to tell you that after some of the excitement passed and I could think more clearly I reached the decision you did and then did it. It was when I finished it early this morning that I realized how tired I was so instead of my early morning walking I took a nap. It is as rough as my stuff usually is, if not worse. I'll let it cool for a day or two and then perhaps confabulate less when I read and correct it.

I was looking for someone to do my retyping for me when Richard said you'd retype Case Open up there. That was a terrible burden for dear Raphaela. Then I got the idea for two lengthy articles that perhaps now something like <sup>Print & Review of</sup> Books in ~~Print~~ would consider. So I looked again and hope I have a student who can spend most of two days a week typing for me. She'll be here for the first time for a couple of hours day after tomorrow. I now have what amounts to a small book for her in but three articles.

The excitement that kept me from thinking clear, when I developed the big-toe infection, is because I have little leg circulation. Four years ago the doctor told me he'd expected me to lose both legs 10 years before that. They are giving me more trouble, are much less dependable, but I still have them, thanks most of all to that walking as much as seems safe six mornings a week. <sup>It</sup> his time the anti-biotic seems to have worked.

While in writing this Afterword I had in mind making a thorough record for history, I did not include all I could have. It is really important stuff, and you understand it correctly. It also is more than that, as you'll see when it is typed cleanly. If you decide it needs cutting, feel free. Whole subjects can be removed, I think, as I have done it, with little work. So can the verbatim transcripts of the Ebersole testimony. (He was the autopsy radiologist. And part of what he swore to is so important for the record, such as that there was no outside interference, no orders from the Kennedy family not to do this or that. And that he was there when Humes phoned Perry the night of the autopsy, from that room, at about 10:30! No, I did not say anything about perjury.)

The FBI agents told the HSCA, which kept them from testifying, what disproves the Report - on both admitted wounds! So, I used some verbatims there, too, believing that sworn transcripts and affidavits are more persuasive than what I writer says. But I've also paraphrased much. Perhaps I should have spelled things out more than I did but I decided against that. I think most readers will perceive it and like it better if it comes from their own realization. But it is really dynamite stuff on all those who were so dishonest. And does it make the case for knowing dishonesty! Which I also did not say. I think that it helps make this as powerful a book as I can remember.

And, of course, I hope I have done it justice.

In the writing I intended that it be possible to make it into an article with ease.

While I am not in a position to make the usual kind of offer to magazines, with which I am no longer familiar in any event, I hoped that perhaps some effort might be made. With very little work it can be self-standing.

This is a subject about which it is not possible to predict what will or will not happen, other than figuring the major media for what it is. But if someone else finds something like this and can place an article, the subject can go crazy again. I suggested to Richard some time ago that I believe it would be a good idea to get it ready for publication so that if there is a development that can indicate it should be rushed that will be no real problem. Doing that would also make it possible to eliminate what will look bad in Case Open.

The lengthy rough draft I sent Richard some weeks ago I've since decided to title "Senator Russell Dissents." It is the untold story part of which is slightly known about Russell and <sup>Senator</sup> John Sherman Cooper being irrevocably opposed to the single-bullet theory. I document it with both. If you did not know, Russell encouraged me to do what I was doing until his dying day and when I put in his hands proof of how his trust was imposed upon he blamed LBJ and never spoke to him again.

The other article was about Posner and his book, mostly what was cut/and more on a little that was not eliminated. I think I'll get it retyped first.

There is no "I told you so" in what I've written but on several occasions I refer back to the conspiracy not to investigate the crime, to the book's beginning.

I have grown weaker and wearier but then in two weeks, on April 8, I'll be 81. So, considering all I've survived and continue to survive, I'm very lucky. Lucky, too, that I could do what I'll be sending in two days.

With the Ebersole and Finck HSCA medical panel transcripts I have HSCA <sup>I</sup>investigative reports on about a dozen and a half. I've used only two, on the two FBI agents at the autopsy. And are they something! In most instances I have copies with the original. I just copied those pages I used and will keep them with the original. If I remember, when I sent this to you I'll include copies of them.

Best regards,

*Handwritten signature*

My source on these HSCA records may amuse you. I am not asking that you keep it secret but I do not want it to become known generally. He is Posner's mother's former ophthalmologist. I say "former" because he told me that Posner got her to shift to a different ophthalmologist for the removal of her<sup>s</sup> second cataract. My friend Gary did a good job for her on removing the first but apparently Gerald was embarrassed when this fine man was one of four of my friends who asked him questions he could not answer honestly and did not at a bookstore where Posner made an appearance and spoke. With his mother there they did not clobber him for the liar he is.

And if you are familiar with what remains of Case Open, that was one of the places where Posner admitted the case is not closed.

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March 22, 1994

Harold Weisberg  
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Dear Harold:

An afterword, if not too lengthy, seems to me the best option for a full analysis of the implications of the radiologist's long suppressed testimony. As its revelations from inside the autopsy room rather dramatically corroborate your argument, I would definitely **not** like to see them relegated to footnotes. And I agree with you that they would have more impact as an afterword and indeed as an endorsement of your work than if they were merely incorporated elsewhere into the text. The time frame--that you did not in fact receive this information until months after you'd finished the manuscript--is, I think, important, and an afterword would emphasize that. The afterword could also serve to epitomize the overriding thesis of your book as regards the autopsy and the (military) conspiracy.

We could place the afterword between the epilogue and the bibliographical essay.

I trust your excitement overshadows and overrides the taxation of all those medical appointments. I hope that your foot heals well and quickly.

Best regards,

