

Dear Gerry,

10/8/92

Sorry I can't begin to take the time to tell you what I've learned about Posner's book but I've about 130,000 words of the rough (and it is rough) draft of a book and I hope to get the whole thing indraft in less than two weeks. But it is requiring that I rush. This time it is being retyped in New York. Planned pub date in April. I think it will surprise you, too. Dave was right in saying it is the most dishonest book he's seen and boy do I prove it!

Good you are going to be able to visit Dennis for free and that you and Hanh-Trang can get a mini-vaction of it. Give him our best.

If this reaches you before you are on that talk show, note that at no point does Posner say that he took and used Failure Analysis work as his own or that it was one side of a both-sides presentation before the ~~the~~ ABA, with a jury, and that not only does Posner misrepresent that there was no other side but they jury did not agree with Posner and hung.

That and more like it is what I'll end the draft with. I'm surprised that with all else, when I was just planning to annotate the book for Dave after you ~~left~~ left it was some time after that that I began the book and have been able to get this much on paper.

Bill was very pleased to get a copy of Roffman's book. He told me about it.

I'll be leaving momentarily to mail the 24th chapter to get in in NY by Monday and until I do I have other mail to catch up on.

Our best to you all,

*Barth*

I was really pleased to see how well Dennis looks and how well he has done with and for himself.

Dear Harold,

Oct. 5, 1993

Now that I finally have my classes well in hand, after almost six weeks of school which seem to have flown by, I am turning my attention to some other projects. At the top of the list is a more careful examination of the U.S. News and World Report exclusive on Posner's Case Closed. I wrote a hasty memo on what I could see as the most obvious errors and shared this with my students. I also used some of the leads you gave me in a letter you sent shortly after the article appeared, such as checking the Rosemary Willis story which he appears to rely on fairly heavily to try to establish that Oswald shot first as early as Zapruder frame 162. It also struck me as inherently preposterous that he believes this missed shot could have travelled an additional 500ft. and strike the curb, wounding Tague. I also pointed out the fact that he neglected to indicate the known defects of the Mannlicher-Carcano found on the 6th floor. As you know, he just presents the specifications of such a weapon in good working order, along with a nice drawing which might make people think that must have been a first-class weapon. Among a few other things, I also noted the errors in his diagram of the theorized path of CE399, in which he mislocates the back wound. I excerpted the portion of Dr. Shires testimony about Connally's thigh wound in which he acknowledges that this bullet penetrated deep enough to leave a small fragment in his femur. Posner's diagram says that CE399 barely pierced the skin.

During the next few weeks I am planning to go into more detail in preparation for a talk I will give at St. Anslem's college where Dennis teaches. Dennis and a colleague of his are going to require their criminology classes to attend, so I should have a guaranteed audience of at least 75. This opportunity came up because Hanh-Trang will be attending a medical conference in Boston, and the clinic where she works will pay my room and meals. My mother will travel down to Spartanburg to look after Claire and Nick for the four days we will be gone (Nov. 10-14). We are both looking forward to this trip because Hanh-Trang did her internship in dietetics at Mass. General Hospital in Boston while I was attending graduate school just across the border in New Hampshire. We still have many friends in the area who we have not seen in about 14 years.

Next week I will be the featured guest on a noon-time radio program which I have appeared on before. The D.J. is a native of Milwaukee and in addition to sharing the same birthplace, we get along pretty well and our previous three shows went very smoothly. It is not a call-in show, but I am sure he will ask me about Case Closed and I plan to be as ready as I can be. A couple weeks ago I did an interview for the school's alumni publication, which I will send you a copy of when it appears. The student intern who did the interview did a good job I thought and he promptly sent me a copy so that I could correct any errors or add some detail. It was much more than any local newspaper has ever done, although I realize they operate on a might tighter schedule.

Bill Neichter has been in touch. He sent me the psychiatric report on Ruby and the letter from John Sherman Cooper in which he clearly states his dissent on the single-bullet theory along with Sen. Russell. I sent him a copy of Roffman's Presumed Guilty, which I expect he will enjoy.

The student I mentioned in my last letter has not been working as hard as I thought he might. He has finished Whitewash and I will assign some portions of Post Mortem before he gets into Case Closed. I am still hopeful he will be able to do a good final paper.

I know you must be incredibly busy these days. Take care, and say hello to Lillian. I will let you know how my appearances go.

Best Wishes,

