

DOCS '65 - VOLUME 1, PART 1

## BOOK REVIEW

by Hal Verb\*

"CASE OPEN: The Omissions, Distortions and Falsifications of 'Case Closed'"

by Harold Weisberg

Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., New York Paperback, 178 pages

There probably is no one better qualified or equal to the task of answering Gerald Posner's highly touted book, *Case Closed*, than Harold Weisberg, former Senate investigator, OSS analyst and author. He has written eight published books on the JFK assassination (a ninth book, *Never Again*, is scheduled for release later this year). Posner's work, in case you've forgotten, provided the "final solution" to the murder mystery of the century: who *really* killed the President? Using what he claimed were the most modern up-to-date scientific analyses Posner "proved" that Lee Harvey Oswald did it all by his lonesome self with no political conspiracy behind him. Posner was on the receiving end of a very favourable media campaign unprecedented in the annals of journalism making him the darling of all the media pundits.

So, how, precisely does Weisberg fit into this picture and why did he join in the political fray?

It isn't simply that some of the evidence Weisberg uncovered is used (or rather misused) in Posner's book, nor the fact that Posner lists in his bibliography Weisberg's books (although curiously or strangely enough he *omitted* listing one of Weisberg's most significant books, *Oswald in New Orleans*). And even when Posner gets around to refer in his text to Weisberg's first book, *Whitewash*, he gets the date of publication wrong (1966 instead of 1965) although the footnote reference and bibliography listing do get theirs correct.

Well, one out of three, I guess, isn't so bad. In baseball that would be hitting pretty good for a major leaguer. But this is the Big Leagues when it comes to assassination literature and Posner's book must stand or fall on its own merits and a failure to get the record accurate and truthful would qualify him to be sent to the showers if not the minor leagues.

Still another reason that prompted Weisberg to issue a rejoinder to Posner is the simple fact that since the appearance of *Case Closed* there has not appeared a single book challenging that work. Moreover, when Posner's book first appeared on the literary horizon not a single journalist, newsman, media personality or political pundit called Weisberg to get his reaction to it! The historical record on that is painfully clear and in Weisberg's book he minces no words and pulls no punches in indicting the media for its witting collaboration to hide the truth from the American people.

What possible justification could the media and the "scholars" have for ignoring him? Even his detractors admit that in the area of the JFK assassination he is the master of the evidence. Could it be that with the wave of historical revisionism that apparently seems to be the fashion these days it is better not to rock the boat? That judgement will have to be rendered by the historians of the future and they will have no better place to start with than Weisberg's *Case Open*.

There were other incidents that provoked and stirred Weisberg into action. Even before Posner completed his book he had misrepresented the nature of his work to Weisberg. Posner and his wife spent three days at the Weisberg home and together they pored over and examined U.S. Government documents on the JFK case which are stored in Weisberg's basement. Posner was given free access and total rein over these and Weisberg was only too willing and happy to share what documents he has. It

is generally recognized that Weisberg's basement is a treasure trove for researchers and his storehouse is reputed to be the world's largest private collection on the matter.

When Weisberg sued the U.S. Government under the Freedom of Information Act (he's the master at these suits and his efforts got Congress to change and *improve* on that Act) the FBI admitted officially in an open court that no one knew more about the JFK assassination than he did. Indeed, he has been deemed the "dean of assassination literature". When the FBI couldn't find one of their own documents they came to Weisberg who was only too glad to offer it to them!

But even the Posner misrepresentation of his book to Weisberg, the misleading misappropriation of Weisberg's evidence selected by Posner for his book and the failure by Posner to list all of Weisberg's books were not the determining and crucial reasons for Weisberg's reply to Posner. No, what really rankled was Posner's boasted claims of using so-called sciences - including psychiatry - to bolster a case shabbily weakened from the start. These, Weisberg refutes in his book point by point documenting from the Warren Commission's own evidence and the testimony of the witnesses they called. To paraphrase Clint Eastwood in the fictional film about a presidential assassination, "That's not the way it happened, Mr. Posner!".

"Case Open", then, becomes the "J Accuse" of all assassination books. It is as if Weisberg felt it were his moral obligation to answer a book he says is "dangerous" because of the lies it contains and he simply could not let that stand.

One thing is certain. Posner may have mistitled his book *Case Closed* but the case *against* Posner is very much open!

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### THE MASTER RESEARCHER DIRECTORY

For those members who intend to pursue their own research into the JFK assassination, the Master Researcher Directory is a must. Compiled by Gordon Winslow, of Miami Florida, the directory contains the names addresses and specific areas of interest of the majority of serious researchers into this subject. This has obvious advantages when one is gathering information. Enrolment is \$7 (check with Gordon possible price increase) plus postage. This entitles one to be entered in the directory and also to list several topics of interest. We have found that the easiest method of sending payment is by obtaining dollar bills from your local bank or travel agent and posting these direct. There is a small risk of loss but this is out-weighed by the cost of purchasing an international money order. This directory is not to be shared, and is only to be used by individuals who have subscribed, but at @ £7 inc. postage it is a gift!

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