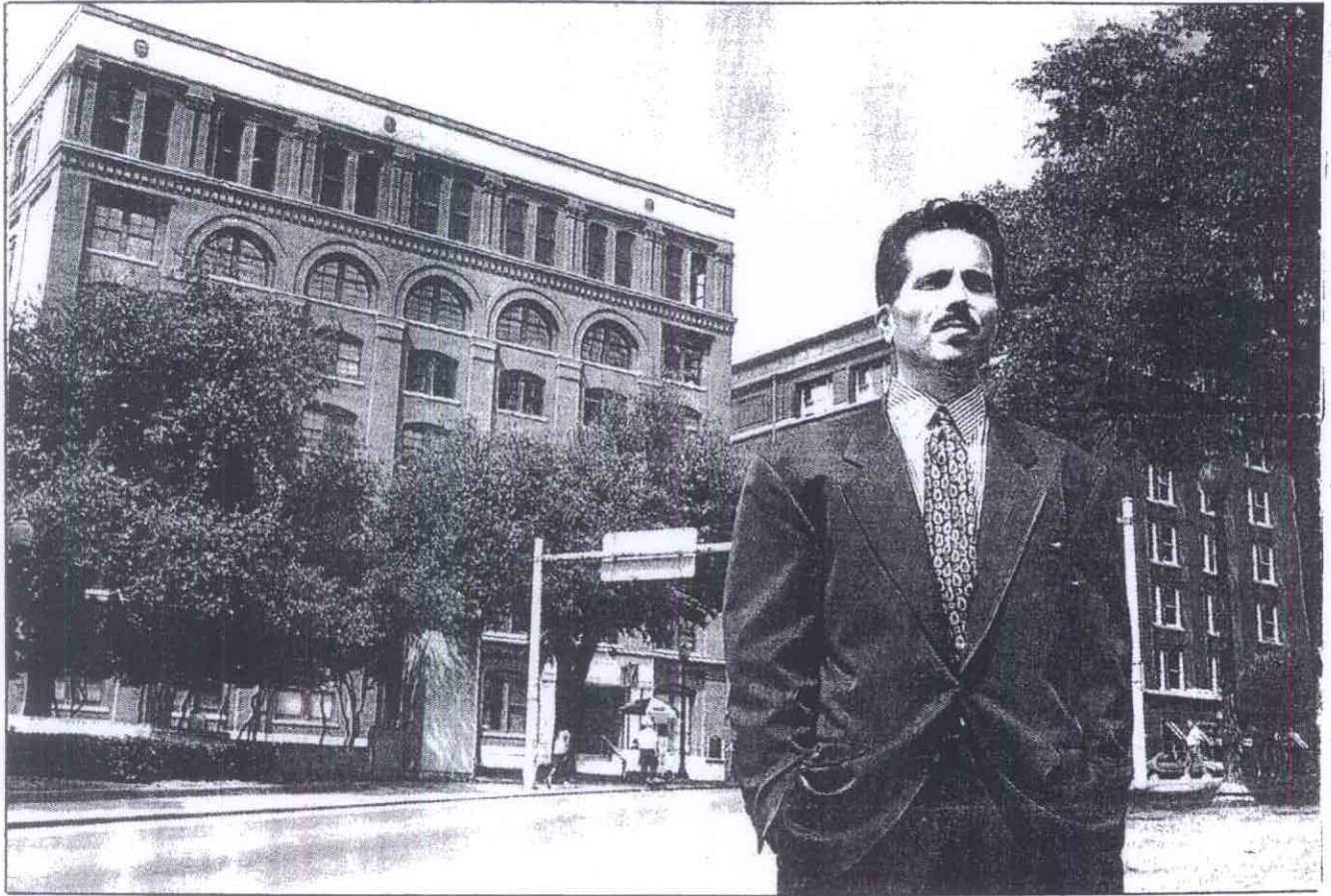


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Fort Worth Star-Telegram / TONY RECORD

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'Oswald did it'

BY ROBERT V. CAMUTO
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"Here's what the assassination has come down to: postcards in Dealey," quipped Posner, waving the \$1 postcard showing the slain president's assassination route through Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963. "That's the American way."

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As the 30th anniversary of the John F. Kennedy assassination approaches, the public is being bombarded with a host of books — each one promising new insight into how the 35th president was gunned down.

Posner's book is different. *Case Closed* is attracting attention and controversy with a conclusion that's hardly titillating: that Lee Harvey Oswald — a social misfit and tortured sociopath — was JFK's lone killer.

"We've had 20 or 30 years now of conspiracy theories drummed into us," said Posner, the 39-year-old Wall Street lawyer turned writer who was in Dallas as part of a nationwide book tour. "It's hard for me to imagine that 30 years later the controversial view is that Oswald did it."

In the years since the assassination, polls have shown a majority of Americans don't believe that Oswald acted alone.

In *Case Closed*, Posner takes aim at government agencies, such as the FBI and CIA, that fanned suspicions with lies to make their agencies look better and to cover their secret actions unrelated to the president's death.

Posner also debunks a range of conspiracy theories and suspect witnesses championed in Oliver Stone's 1991 movie *JFK*, which alleged that the assassination was part of a government coup d'etat.



Kennedy



Oswald

Author makes case against conspiracy theories

"I do have to thank Oliver Stone for one thing," Posner said laughingly. "He went so far over the line of truth, he created the opportunity for a book that would correct the record."

Conspiracy theorists are swarming in anger over what they're calling "Posner-gate."

One conspiracy writer that Posner lances as sincere but misled is Jim Marrs of Fort Worth, whose 1989 book *Crossfire* alleges that at least two gunmen ambushed Kennedy in a plot carried out by the mafia and rogue government elements.

"Posner is positive. He says, 'case closed.' I'm not about to tell you that," said an agitated Marrs in a telephone

interview yesterday. "There are so many imponderables and so many unknowables, you have to look at every aspect of every issue and decide for yourself, because the government has been lying for years."

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In *Case Closed*, Posner concludes that mobsters may have discussed killing the president, but "He [Oswald] beat the mafia to Kennedy."

Posner relies on a three-dimensional computer re-enactment of the famed Zapruder film to show that three shots fired in Dealey Plaza could have come only from the school book depository and that the "magic bullet" ridiculed by conspiracy theorists cut a straight line through Kennedy and Gov. John Connally before it deflected off Connally's wrist.

But the key to the riddle is Oswald, Posner insists. And he goes deeper than others to get inside the head of the man he describes as a wife abuser and sociopath with his own brand of kooky left-wing politics.

Posner's conclusion — drawn from sources including Oswald's KGB handler in Russia — was that Oswald was a man rejected by Cuba and by the Soviet Union as unreliable and unstable.

Yet, Posner, insists, Oswald wanted desperately to prove himself to the world. First, there was the attempt on John Birch Society leader Gen. Edwin Walker.

Later that year, when Oswald saw a map of the parade route in Dallas newspapers, Posner said, "This was like history on a silver platter."