



The University of Georgia

School of Law

June 23, 1995

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Maryland 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have just finished reading your latest book on the JFK assassination, Case Closed.

Enclosed please find copies of my three most recent articles on the assassination.

Please keep up the good work, and remember that there are millions of Americans who have had their eyes opened because of your important work.

Very truly yours,

Donald E. Wilkes, Jr.
Professor of Law
706-542-5179

tsm/DEW
Enclosures

Dear Professor Wilkos,

6/26/95

Thanks for your letter and its enclosures. I regret that your articles did not get wider attention. I've carried that forward a bit in the enclosed retyped rough draft of an article about two years old to which I added a bit when it was available. I have no objections to others seeing it but I do not want it used without permission because I have some plans for it.

Case Open was completed before the end of 1995. It was butchered in publication with at least 75% just chopped put. I hope to be able to use that part in some current writing. I used Posner's prosecution-type brief as a defense lawyer would have only I stuck to the actual official evidence.

NOVER AGAIN! was ~~pub~~ completed about Thanksgiving-time in 1992 and was sat on until this April. Many fewer errata. I'm sorry I've not been able to get copies so I cannot send you one. It is in the stores or they can order it. The index was somehow omitted! I enclose a copy in the event you get the book. I'm told it is off first by a page and then by two pages. It is unread and unedited.

I've a sequel to NOVER AGAIN! completed as well as a number of other rough drafts but no publisher and I'm not in a position seek either an agent or a publisher at 82 and in impaired health. But I am getting what I can on paper and it will all be available at local Hood College.

If anyone ever copies all of Russell's file on the Commission I'd like to get a copy to deposit at Hood.

Please excuse my typing. Sorry it cannot be any better.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Russell disagreed with JFK death report

Athens Observer 11-7-69 P. 1 col. 2
Papers show late senator doubted findings of Warren Commission

By DONALD E. WILKES JR.

Documents recently uncovered in the University of Georgia Library show Sen. Richard Russell, the only Georgian on the Warren Commission, had grave doubts about key aspects of the Warren Report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, but kept silent about his reservations for two years. These documents, located by a university student doing research on the JFK assassination, also reveal Russell, apparently disgusted with Warren Commission procedures, prepared but never sent a letter resigning from the Commission three months after JFK's death.

The Warren Report was released 25 years ago, on Sept. 21, 1964. President Kennedy died in a burst of sniper fire in Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 22, 1963. The Warren Report concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, shot JFK from the Texas School Book Depository, and that there was no conspiracy behind the assassination.

Georgia's Richard Russell, who represented this state in the U.S. Senate for 38 years, never wanted to serve on the Warren Commission. Appointed by President Lyndon Johnson anyway, Russell soon became known as the "Great Dissenter" on the Commission. The transcript of a Jan. 27, 1964, secret session of the Warren Commission, declassified and published in 1974, is typical. It shows Russell asking questions and making comments indicating that he was highly displeased with the quality of both the FBI's investigation and the information being fed the Commission by the FBI and CIA.

To prevent any embarrassment to President Johnson, the loyal Russell signed the Warren Report without publicly disagreeing with anything in it. But two years later the senator could restrain himself no longer. He publicly announced his "lingering dissatisfaction" with part of the report. In an interview published in the *Atlanta Constitution*, see RUSSELL'S, page 7A.



Sen. Richard Russell (second from left, front) watches as Warren Commission chairman Earl Warren presents the report to Pres. Lyndon Johnson. Behind Russell stands then Rep. Gerald Ford, later to become president himself. Russell, who had serious doubts about the investigation of Kennedy's assassination, planned at one point to resign from the commission. (Photo courtesy of Richard B. Russell Collection, Richard B. Russell Memorial Library, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens)

• Russell's objections

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stitution Nov. 20, 1966, Russell explicitly stated he could not agree that Oswald acted alone. He could accept the conclusion that Oswald fired the shots that killed JFK, but he could not rule out the possibility that Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

In the interview Russell also disagreed with the report's single bullet theory: the theory that one of the bullets fired from behind the presidential limousine struck JFK in the back, exited the front of his neck, and then struck Texas Gov. John Connally.

The Warren Commission embraced the theory in its report to try to explain why films show JFK and Connally both reacting to wounds in less than the amount of time it takes to fire two shots from the rifle supposedly used by Oswald. Without the theory, the Commission would have been forced to acknowledge the existence of multiple gunmen.

On Jan. 19, 1970, less than a year before his death, Russell again proclaimed his doubts about the Warren Report, this time in a television interview. Although professing to have not "the slightest doubt" that Oswald fired the fatal shots, Russell went beyond his 1966 remarks and stated flatly that he "never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President Kennedy without at least some encouragement from others."

Russell added: "I think someone else worked with him."

When the Warren Report was published other members of the Warren Commission also had silent doubts. Sen. John Sherman Cooper as well as Rep. Hale Boggs shared some of Russell's concerns, but, like Russell, did not speak out at the time.

The documents recently found in the UGA Library include a dissenting statement prepared by Russell but omitted from the Warren Report. Whether Russell intended to have his dissenting statement published in the report is unknown. Something that might throw light on the matter, the transcript of the final meeting of the Warren Commission held on Sept. 18, 1964, two days after Russell dictated his dissenting statement, disappeared (apparently from the National Archives) years ago.

The existence of the dissenting statement proves the doubts Russell first publicly voiced in 1966 dated back to even before the report was issued.

In his dissenting statement, dictated on Sept. 16, 1964, Russell disagreed with the Warren Report view that JFK and Connally were hit by the same bullet, and also disagreed with the report's conclusion of no conspiracy. In Russell's judgement, the insufficiency of the evidence gathered against Oswald "preclude(d) the conclusive determination that Oswald and Oswald alone, without the knowledge, encouragement or assistance of any other person, planned and perpetrated the assassination."

Russell's plan to resign from the Warren Commission is reflected in an entry on his desk calendar for Feb. 22/23, 1964: "write Pres J & Resign from Commission." In a two-page letter of resignation addressed to President Johnson dated Feb. 24, 1964, but never mailed, Russell complained the Commission was scheduling, holding, or cancelling meetings without notifying him. Why Russell changed his mind about resigning is unexplained.

The passage of a quarter-century has confirmed many of Sen. Russell's doubts about the Warren Report. Almost every major study of the JFK assassination since 1975 has rejected the single bullet theory, although there is disagreement as to whether this necessarily means more than one gunman shot at JFK.

A 1977-78 congressional reinvestigation of the assassination specifically found that the FBI and the Warren Commission failed to investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate JFK and that the CIA was deficient in supplying information to the Commission. The congressional committee concluded, contrary to the Warren Report, that JFK probably was assassinated as a result of a conspiracy, although the committee did not know who the members of the conspiracy were. Where the Warren Commission found that Oswald fired all the shots at the president's limousine, the congressional committee found it highly probable that two gunmen did the shooting.

It is no wonder that the Warren Report has failed to withstand the test of time. As Sen. Russell's public pronouncements and his previously undisclosed papers show, even members of the Warren Commission didn't believe it.

Donald E. Wilkes Jr. is a professor at the University of Georgia Law School.



photo courtesy of the Richard Russell Library

JFK killer not alone, UGA Professor says

*The Athens
Observer*

by Donald E. Wilkes Jr.

Thurs.

*12-8-94
12-8-94*

A recording released earlier this year by the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library has brought to light some important new facts concerning the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As a result of disclosure of the recording it is now evident, more than three decades after the assassination, that President Lyndon B. Johnson and three members of the Warren Commission (Sen. Richard B. Russell, Sen. John Sherman Cooper, and Rep. Hale Boggs) rejected the so-called single bullet theory, an essential part of the Commission's single-assassin thesis.

Thirty years ago, on Friday, Sept. 18, 1964, at 7:54 p.m. Sen. Richard B. Russell placed a long distance telephone call from his Georgia home to President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House. Russell's purpose was to tell Johnson about what had happened earlier that day at the final official meeting of what Russell called "that dang Warren Commission," of which he was a reluctant member.

The recording of that conversation was not released to the public until Apr. 15, 1994. The recording confirms a well-established fact: Sen. Russell vehemently disagreed with the so-called single bullet theory, a key aspect of the

continued on page 4A

Warren Commission's 1964 report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The recording also discloses an amazing fact previously unknown: LBJ agreed with Russell that the Warren Report's single bullet theory was unworthy of belief.

The single bullet theory is the theory that a nonfatal bullet fired from behind the presidential limousine pierced JFK's back, exited his throat without hitting any bones, struck Texas Gov. Connally in the back, exited his chest after shattering ribs and puncturing a lung, smashed through his right wrist, and then came to rest, virtually intact, in Connally's left thigh.

The proposed final draft of the Warren Report unconditionally accepted the single bullet theory as conclusively proved by the evidence. However, due to objections by Russell and other Commission members at that final meeting on Sept. 18, 1964, the official version of the report endorsed the single bullet theory but refused to rule out other possibilities. Denying that the single bullet theory was essential to its overall conclusion that Oswald was the lone gunman in the sixth floor window, the report found "there is very persuasive evidence" to support the single bullet theory and that the theory is "most probably" correct, yet also (in deference to Russell's objections) acknowledged that certain "factors have given rise to some difference of opinion as to this probability"

In his Sept. 18, 1964 telephone call to President Johnson, Russell, after an opening exchange of pleasantries, immediately complained "that dang Warren Commission business has whupped me down ... I was just worn down fighting over that damn report."

A cause of the difficulties at the Warren Commission's final session, Russell made plain, was the single bullet theory: "[T]hey was trying to prove that the same bullet that hit Kennedy first, was the one that hit Connally and went through him and went through his hand and his bone and into his leg and everything else ..."

When LBJ asked, "Well, what difference does it make which bullet got Connally?," Russell answered: "Well, it don't make much difference!" Then he



Photo courtesy of Richard Russell Memorial Library

LIKE OTHER AMERICANS Senator Richard Russell was shocked by the assassination of President Kennedy. He did not believe a single sniper could have wounded Gov. John Connally and killed Kennedy.

added: "But they said that ... the Commission believe[s] that the same bullet that hit Kennedy hit Connally. Well, I don't believe it!"

LBJ quickly responded: "Well, I don't either!"

Russell then gave LBJ two reasons for rejecting the theory: it contradicted Connally's testimony that he was hit by a different bullet, and it required the further finding—a finding accepted by the Warren Report—that one of Oswald's three shots missed the limousine entirely, which seems highly unlikely given the assassin's deadly shooting abilities.

On Sept. 16, 1964, two days before the call to LBJ, Russell had dictated a dissenting statement detailing his many doubts about the single bullet theory and about the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, had murdered President Kennedy. This dissenting statement was not included in the Warren Report but is in the senator's papers at the UGA's Russell Library. Shortly after the Warren Report was released, Russell first made public his doubts about the Report when he told *The Atlanta Constitution* for Sept. 29, 1964 that it still was not known whether Oswald had acted "with the encouragement or knowledge of anyone else." Russell attacked both the single

bullet theory and the lone assassin notion in an interview published in *The Atlanta Constitution* Nov. 20, 1966. In an interview with WSB-TV in February 1970, less than a year before his death, Sen. Russell again voiced doubts about parts of the Warren Report.

Sen. Russell's objections to important findings of the Warren

Commission, see Wilkes, "Russell Disagreed with JFK Death Report," *The Athens Observer*, Nov. 9, 1989, p. 1.)

While Russell's disbelief in the single bullet theory has been well known for decades, LBJ's disagreement with the theory is a surprising new discovery.

It has been known for years that LBJ believed, notwithstanding the Warren Report, that President Kennedy was assassinated by a conspiracy. As a U. S. Senate report published in 1976 reveals, a close aide to LBJ told a high-ranking FBI official in 1967 that Johnson "is convinced there was a plot in connection with Kennedy's assassination." In a 1971 interview with another former aide—an interview published in *Atlantic* magazine seven months after his January 1973 death—LBJ reiterated his belief that the JFK assassination had been part of a conspiracy. In the interview Johnson said that when he became president he had learned that America was "operating a Murder, Inc. in the Caribbean." It appears LBJ thought the JFK assassination a retaliation for CIA-Mafia murder plots in the early 1960's aimed at killing Cuba's Fidel Castro.

When the Warren Commission, with knowledge of the distances and locations in Dealey Plaza, examined the

famous Zapruder film it concluded that less than 2 seconds elapsed between the earliest point in time at which JFK could have been shot in the back, and the latest point in time when Connally could have been shot in the back.

However, it had also been established that it took at least 2.3 seconds to fire the "Oswald rifle" twice (without aiming). If, therefore, there was only one assassin then both JFK and Connally must have been struck in the back by the same rifle bullet—the single bullet. As Burt Griffin, a member of the Warren Commission staff, bluntly phrased it: "To say that [JFK and Connally] were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying that there were two assassins."

The Warren Commission was totally committed to the single assassin thesis—that Oswald, acting alone, fired all the shots with a Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 mm bolt-action rifle, that a total of three shots were fired, and that the shots came from a window on the sixth floor of the school book depository. The Commission's slavish devotion to the single assassin notion, no matter what facts or leads the investigation uncovered, is widely recognized as one of the reasons the Warren Report is deficient.

Although the Warren Commission denied it, the truth is that without the single bullet theory the Commission would have been forced to abandon its fundamental premise that Oswald was the sole assassin. It was not the inconclusive firearms tests, but the Commission's fixation with proving that Oswald acted alone, that induced the Commission to favor the single bullet theory.

Three decades after publication of the Warren Report, Americans are finally in a position to understand the terrible truth: in 1964, when the Warren Commission announced its findings, the American people were being asked to believe a lone assassin scenario underpinned by a ballistics theory which, unknown to them, the President of the United States and nearly half of the members of the Warren Commission had deemed not worthy of belief.

Donald E. Wilkes is a Professor of Law at the University of Georgia.

'It has been known for years that LBJ believed, not withstanding the Warren Report, that President Kennedy was assassinated by a conspiracy.'

Report received further publicity when the senator's views were mentioned in various JFK assassination books, including notably Edward Epstein's *Inquest* (1966), Harold Weisberg's *Whitewash IV* (1974), Bernard Fensterwald's *Coincidence or Conspiracy?* (1977), and Henry Hurt's *Reasonable Doubt* (1985).

(For more information on the rejection of various findings in the Warren Report, including the single bullet theory, by Russell and other members of the Warren

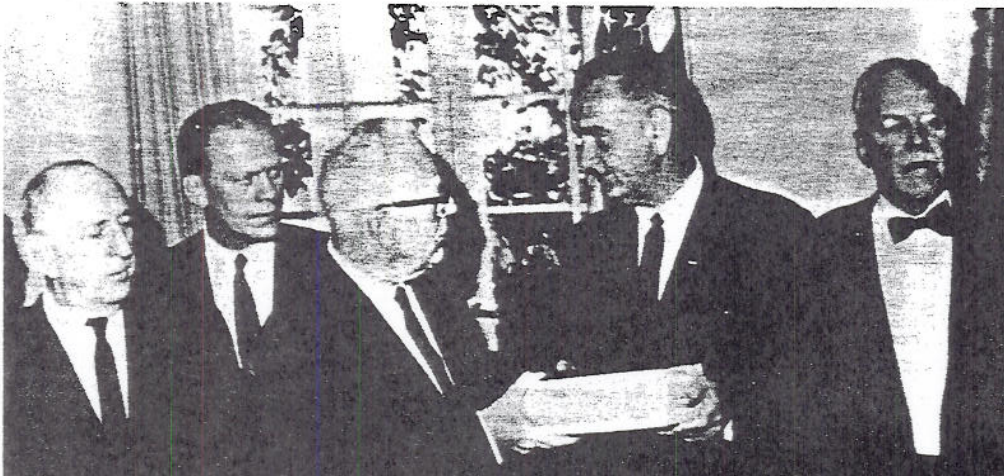


Photo courtesy of Richard Russell Memorial Library

A RELUCTANT MEMBER of the Warren Commission, Russell had to fight to get a statement that the Commission



Photo courtesy of Richard Russell Memorial Library

TO LYNDON JOHNSON Russell confided his doubts about the "single bullet theory". Johnson said he did

1993

New JFK book "continued coverup" claims university law professor



Donald E. Wilkes

By Donald E. Wilkes Jr.

What a shame it is that attorney Gerald Posner's book, *Case Closed* (Random House, 1993) is now, in the 30th year after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a national best-seller. The book purports to prove that the Warren Report was right: that 24-year old Lee Harvey Oswald was a violence-prone, disgruntled, pro-Communist misfit and loner who, without help from anyone, murdered JFK; that Oswald accomplished the assassination with a bolt-action 6.5mm Italian rifle manufactured around 1940 and ammunition manufactured in 1944; that shortly afterwards Oswald killed a Dallas policeman, J. D. Tippett, with a pistol; and that the evidence of Oswald's guilt as the lone assassin is so strong that the JFK murder may be described as a closed case.

Posner's book is interesting; the author has obviously done a lot of research, and he demolishes several extravagant conspiracy theories concerning the assassination, but nonetheless the book wholly fails to demonstrate that there was no conspiracy behind the assassination. The effect of the book is to continue the coverup of the sinister and strange circumstances of the assassination, a coverup which began with the Warren Commission in 1964 and continues to be embraced by the media and press establishment. If the case is closed, it is only because the coverup continues.

Posner is one of the very few researchers to have looked at the evidence and concluded that the Warren Report was right, and in that sense he is a sort of lone nut among JFK assassination buffs. The reviews of Posner's book generally have been favorable, but this is unfortunate, since Posner's book is not the result of a judicious and impartial inquiry; it is not the fruit of a quest for the truth; it is a work of special pleading. In order to prove Oswald's guilt as the sole assassin of a president and the lone murderer of a police officer, Posner ignores or disparages facts to the contrary, and erroneously asserts that certain matters are proven facts when in actuality they are not. Incidentally, he attempts to reassociate the discredited "single bullet theory"—the theory that a bullet fired from behind transected JFK's back or neck and then struck Texas Gov. John Connally. In appraising the police and intelligence agencies which failed to warn or protect JFK and then failed to adequately investigate the assassination, he displays a disturbing naïveté surprising in a lawyer supposed to be a sophisticated investigator. He cannot give a good reason why Oswald would kill the President and his lame explanation of Oswald's alleged motive files in the face of Oswald's behavior after the assassination.

In a vain effort to uphold the single gunman theory, Posner constructs an absurd account of the actual assassination: he asserts that a lone Oswald, who would have had an easy, unobstructed shot as the presidential limousine approached the Texas School Book Depository, foolishly waited until the limousine had passed the Depository and was moving away from him before firing, when his target was harder to hit; that Oswald then

proceeded to fire his first shot while his view of the limousine was obstructed by both a tall street lamp and a tree, rather than waiting the three seconds more it would take for the car to move to a position where his view was unobstructed; that the first shot missed and his second shot, fired 4 seconds later, wounded both JFK and Gov. Connally (even though none of the eyewitnesses thought both men had been hit by the same bullet, even though Connally and his wife adamantly maintained that Connally was hit by a shot fired after JFK had already been hit, and even though the famous Zapruder film of the assassination shows that Connally did not react to his injury until seconds after JFK had reacted to wounds far less serious than Connally's); and finally, that 5 seconds later, using a cheap, flimsy, dilapidated, 25-year old second-hand rifle that sold for \$2.00 wholesale, Oswald (a poor shot) was able to shoot JFK in the head at a distance of 265 feet (88 yards) while the presidential limousine was moving away, downhill, and at an angle from the sniper's perch in the Depository. Posner even refers to the fatal headshot—a shot which would have required the combined talents of Robin Hood, William Tell, and Annie Oakley—as "a simple shot" (1 Case Closed, p. 476).

Posner's book is not above stating as "fact" matters which are by no means proven. To link Oswald to the Italian rifle found on the sixth floor of the Depository, Posner asserts that in the Warren Commission proceedings the FBI fiber experts who examined the paper bag Oswald allegedly used to carry the Italian rifle to the Depository "discovered that the bag contained microscopic fibers from the blanket with which Oswald kept his rifle wrapped" in a garage prior to the assassination (p. 225). In actuality, the FBI fiber expert who testified before the Warren Commission refused to make a positive identification, stating (Warren Commission Hearings, vol. 4, p. 81): "All I would say here is that it is possible that these fibers could have come from this blanket...."

In an attempt to pooh-pooh the large body of evidence that a hidden gunman fired at JFK from the grassy knoll to the right front of the presidential limousine, Posner heaps scorn on the eyewitnesses who saw a puff of smoke arising from the knoll at the time of the shooting, asserting that "since modern ammunition is smokeless, it seldom creates even a wisp of smoke" (Case Closed, p. 256). However, the panel of firearms experts retained by the U. S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (which in 1977-78 reinvestigated

the actual assassination: he asserts that a lone Oswald, who would have had an easy, unobstructed shot as the presidential limousine approached the Texas School Book Depository, foolishly waited until the limousine had passed the Depository and was moving away from him before firing, when his target was harder to hit; that Oswald then proceeded to fire his first shot while his view of the limousine was obstructed by both a tall street lamp and a tree, rather than waiting the three seconds more it would take for the car to move to a position where his view was unobstructed; that the first shot missed and his second shot, fired 4 seconds later, wounded both JFK and Gov. Connally (even though none of the eyewitnesses thought both men had been hit by the same bullet, even though Connally and his wife adamantly maintained that Connally was hit by a shot fired after JFK had already been hit, and even though the famous Zapruder film of the assassination shows that Connally did not react to his injury until seconds after JFK had reacted to wounds far less serious than Connally's); and finally, that 5 seconds later, using a cheap, flimsy, dilapidated, 25-year old second-hand rifle that sold for \$2.00 wholesale, Oswald (a poor shot) was able to shoot JFK in the head at a distance of 265 feet (88 yards) while the presidential limousine was moving away, downhill, and at an angle from the sniper's perch in the Depository. Posner even refers to the fatal headshot—a shot which would have required the combined talents of Robin Hood, William Tell, and Annie Oakley—as "a simple shot" (1 Case Closed, p. 476).

the JFK murder) reported that even smokeless powder emits residue and smoke when a cartridge is fired; and the panel further reported that when they test-fired the "Oswald" rifle "some smoke was observed coming from the muzzle of the weapon." (House Assassinations Committee Hearings, vol. 7, p. 373.)

Consider also Posner's statement of the "proof" that Oswald killed Tippett, a killing that Posner says "is [the] key to understanding Oswald's" murder of JFK (Case Closed, p. 280). Four bullets were removed from the body of Officer Tippett in 1964, at the request of the Warren Commission, experts from the FBI Crime Laboratory compared those bullets with sample bullets fired from the pistol taken from Oswald after his arrest. The FBI experts determined that because the barrel had been modified (apparently before Oswald obtained it), bullets fired from the pistol did not have sufficient identifying marks to be linked with the pistol, and they therefore concluded that, although the bullets in Tippett's body could have been fired from Oswald's pistol, it was "not possible" to say with scientific certainty that they had been (Warren Commission Hearings, vol. 3, p. 475). Another ballistics expert retained by the Warren Commission, Joseph Nichol of the Chicago Police Laboratory, also tested the bullets and agreed with the FBI experts, except that Nichol claimed that his tests proved one of the Tippett bullets had been fired from Oswald's pistol. Thus Nichol claimed to have proved what the FBI experts said it was "not possible" to prove. The Warren Commission accepted the view of the FBI experts that the Tippett bullets could not be shown to a scientific certainty to have been



President John F. Kennedy, Jr. was assassinated on November 22, 1963. His death has stirred controversy as to the actual assailant(s) for 30 years now.

fired from the Oswald pistol (Warren Report, pp. 172, 176).

In 1978 the House Assassinations Committee had the Tippett bullets examined by a panel of five firearms experts who, like the FBI experts, concluded that the bullets "could not be conclusively identified or eliminated as having been fired from the [Oswald] revolver." (House Assassinations Committee Hearings, vol. 7, p. 377.)

Yet this is how Posner states the "facts" concerning Oswald's pistol and the bullets that killed Tippett: "On three of the bullets, the best the experts could conclude was that the bullets had the same characteristics as Oswald's revolver, but they could not iso-

another far-rightist, ex-FBI agent Guy Bannister, both of whom had close dealings with Oswald, the supposed Marxist, in New Orleans in the summer of 1963. He also finds "understandable, rather than sinister" (p. 87), Oswald's close relationship in Texas with the mysterious George de Mohrenchildt, a wealthy, right-wing, Russian aristocrat whose cover was "petroleum engineering" and whose entire life was steeped in intelligence work.

Amazingly, Posner accepts at face value solemn denials, sworn testimony, and affidavits by American intelligence agencies denying they had dealings with Oswald, and appears to actually believe that the absence of proof in the files of these agencies that Oswald was an intelligence agent demonstrates that he was not such an agent.

Like all single-assassin theorists, Posner can advance no plausible reason why Oswald would have desired JFK's death. There is no evidence that Oswald ever said anything bad about or indicated any hostility to JFK, and there is evidence that Oswald admired JFK. The best explanation he can offer is that Oswald was the classic lone nut, a wifebeater, a Marxist, a malcontent, a misfit; Oswald, he says, killed JFK because he was "driven by his own twisted and impenetrable furies" (p. 472) and because he wanted the "fame" and "glory" that crazies attribute to assassins who kill notable persons. But there are thousands,

perhaps millions of people as sick or strange as Oswald supposedly was, and they do not attempt presidential assassinations; why then would he? And if Oswald wanted to bask in the splendor of being a presidential assassin, why after his arrest did he deny guilt? Why, when he was surrounded by the press, when the cameras were rolling and the whole world listening, did he not (like all previous presidential assassins) glory in his deed and brag about it to the world? Why did he instead say, "I didn't shoot anybody," "I'm just a patsy," and "I emphatically deny these charges"?

At the end of his book Posner flatly claims that Oswald "was the only assassin in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963," and contends that "[t]o say otherwise" is "to mock the President he killed" (p. 472). As usual, Posner is wrong. To leap to the conclusion that Oswald is "a man with blood on his hands" (p. 472), to claim that there is overwhelming evidence or scientific proof that Oswald was the lone assassin, to deny that the evidence against Oswald is weak, to ignore the compelling evidence that JFK's motorcade came under gunfire from several directions, or to otherwise try to cling to that quaint, obsolescent notion that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed John F. Kennedy, is what really constitutes mocking the truth.

Donald E. Wilkes Jr. is a professor at the University of Georgia School of Law.