

Mr. Jonathan Yardley, book critic
The Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, DC 20071

8/22/93

Dear Mr. Yardley,

I hope I am not becoming a nuisance and I do not intend to be, but as you may recall, I am trying to leave as complete a record for history of the coming flood of what I am confident will be of trashy commercializations and exploitations of the JFK assassination anniversary. A seemingly unusual development was reported to me last night about one of those major book, Gerald Posner's "Case Closed," by Random House.

I was told by a friend that yesterday's Times carried an ad for its sale in book stores beginning in the morning. I saw no such ad in today's Post. I therefore assume that the decision to release the book prematurely was without the time to place an ad in the Post. With the importance of reviews to sales, I wonder why Random jeopardizes getting reviews by clearly hasty release of the book.

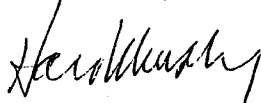
I think it can not be because of fear of competition in the market place. The other major books have been known for months. It also cannot be from fear of another book that will be critical of the so-called critics, Carroll & Graf's certain to be a despicable commercialization "Killing the Truth" because to my knowledge an addition to it is or this past week was under consideration.

What on the basis of limited and quite incomplete knowledge I am inclined to suspect is that Posner now has some fears about the validity of his subtitle, and the "closing" of the case for Oswald as the lone assassin.

When he was here he had described and searched my file for an entirely different book. In recent correspondence I suggested to him that as a lawyer and an experienced investigator it surprised me that he had avoided devil's advocacy, knowing how vital that could be.

So, if you get anything that can bear on the reason for the premature release or any promotional material I will appreciate it if you can find time to send it or copies to me. Posner told me he asked his publisher to do that but I have gotten nothing from Random or from him.

Thanks and best wishes,



Harold Weisberg