

Tuesday August 31, 1995

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Hello:

An odd thing is happening. Last week, as perhaps I told you, the fellow from CARolina, Beekman ?, telephoned to say he liked my review on Posner's book and questioned me about any difficulties I had getting it published and if I had had any published attacks upon it or received any correspondence etc on it of a negative nature. Had Posner replied to it? I said not, it fell from the sky dead on arrival and absolutely nothing occurred. He remarked he was using it in his book on Posner.

I thought it strange for it was after all only a review. and only 400-500 words at that that appeared in Feb in the Journal of Southern History. I told him I regretted that I could not have had room for both a silver bullet and a wooden stake, but had to accept just one.

Apparently a copy is on the internet and people read it and talk about it.

Last Friday Aguilar phoned me about the book review!! He wanted to know if it had been peer reviewed. I said no, but that it had been thoroughly fact checked by the editors and explained the procedure and he hung up being in a hurry and legitimately so apparently. That was all.

Then this Monday Aguilar phoned me about 11:00 pm. which is a hell of a late time to telephone but I was up and no problem; with his schedule it was the only time available.

Again he wanted to discuss the review. It seems a McAdam or MacAdam on the internet system that addresses the JFK stuff and has the review had telephoned the editor of the Journal of Southern History and spoke with the editor about the book review!!! Agguilar said Mc or Mac was a CIA person--but how he knows I do not know. Mc or Mac replied the book review was not peer reviewed. What else he said I do not know. I explained in greater detail the process of academic reviewing and that I knew what the hell I was doing and that peering was irrelevant. [One of Aguilar's points of attack on JAMA is for not submitting the article to peer review.]

Apparently the review is being read all over and causing quite a positive reaction among the unwashed. [Mc or Mac and apparently some true believers desire to attack it. Anyway Aguilar is calling the editor of the Journal in Houston today to praise the review and me and I do not know what else. He said he would only talk to him for a few minutes -- one or two--and I replied that i hoped he praised the review. He said certainly and spoke responsibly.

What a crazy thing.

The last thing we need is to have the irrationality and the nuts or true believers flush the academicians who

have lent their journals to the subject and have them
turn off their pages to subsequent reviews.

David W. Wone