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Spies Who Came to Dinner

By Dorothy McCordle

John M. Shaheen, who plans to start publishing an afternoon newspaper in New York, possibly some time next summer, says *The New York Press*, as he calls it, will be a \$20-million enterprise.

A slight greying man, Shaheen was here as toastmaster at the recent Veterans of OSS dinner at the Washington Hilton. He was chairman of the William J. Donovan Award Committee, which gave the 1974 Donovan award to William J. Casey, president of the Export-Import Bank. Shaheen is, himself, a veteran of the OSS in World War II and so is Casey.

Casey said that American and British counter-intelligence units had the "closest thing to a decisive clandestine impact on the war in Europe. It came not from the hundreds of men and thousands of weapons parachuted into Europe, but from a handful of real German spies captured and turned around in England, and a couple of dozen imaginary spies in an imaginary network carrying out imaginary operations within England."

According to Casey, "The fact is that our side operated the entire German intelligence network in England, writing their reports in London and sending them to the Germans by radio or with letters to Madrid or Lisbon in secret ink or microdot.

"These fictitious reports convinced the German generals and finally Adolf Hitler that the Allied landings would come, not from Normandy, but near Calais, 100 miles to the North."

Casey, who has been chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Under Secretary of State, said that the Central Intelligence Agency, which grew from the OSS, is far more than a spy operation today.

"The CIA is one of the world's great centers of learning and scholarship, having more Ph.D.s and advanced scientific degrees than you are likely to find any place else," Casey said.

In his speech, Casey set the record straight about that "Wild Bill" nickname given Donovan.

"Donovan's manner was deceptively mild," said Casey, relating how Donovan's soft voice and gentle manner had caused some people to change their opinion of Donovan.

Said Casey: "Donovan came into town as 'Wild Bill' and left as Sweet William."

Organizers of the United Negro College Fund are beginning to feel jinxed.

For the second time in six months, the date for their benefit conflicts with another event. The one scheduled Tuesday night at \$50 a couple is intended to draw members of Congress. But Tuesday is the same night President and Mrs. Ford have invited members of Congress to a Christmas ball at the White House.

Last summer, Niles White, area director of the fund, organized a congressional tennis match after George Bush, then chairman of the Republican National Committee, agreed to sponsor the fund-raiser.

Before the match could be held, however, Richard Nixon resigned as President, Congress went home to campaign for re-election and Bush went off to China as head of the U.S. Liaison Mission in Peking.

This time Robert L. Strauss, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Mary Louise Smith, head of the Republican National Committee, have agreed to co-host the benefit.

There is one optimistic note: benefit time is set for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and the White House ball is not scheduled to begin until 9 p.m. Fund-raiser organizers are hopeful that congressional guests will make it a point to stop by the Capitol Hill Quality Inn (415 New Jersey Ave. NW) on their way to the White House.