

Fletcher Prouty (The Secret Team) on CBS McCord's credentials; Ellsberg as CIA agent.

Prouty and his credentials are impressive. But like so many establishmentarians when he is turned on by perception of wrong, he goes too far. Thus, I suppose, he was driven to the CIA nuttery (member board-how I met him).

His coming book apparently says, explicitly, that Ellsberg was a CIA agent. He hemmed and hawed a bit on this when confronted with an unequivocal denial made by E. to Fred Graham and to Prouty by phone. Thus he loses the legitimate point. It is not that the CIA got Ellsberg to do what he did. It is that the papers are kind to CIA only because CIA could control what could be in them. If the CIA needed an agent in The Pent. Papers, it would have been the compiler, not the leaker. Ellsberg's past support of the war is hardly basis for calling him an agent, then or now. The prosecution is being pursued with sufficient vigor and great enough cost to him to in itself cast serious doubt on Prouty's accusation.

Much of what he said of McCord is not new to me, like being introduced by Allen Dulles and having McC described as the best, a real pro. Here I note my earlier comment on the unreasonable but entirely accepted ridiculing of the equipment used in the MC bugging. McC knew the business and had the facilities to get what he needed.

Prouty said it is he who brought McCord and Bud together when it became clear that McCord wanted to go in a different direction. And that it happened before Alch left town, as I recall.

I have these 10 minutes on tape.

Prouty is cool. His earphone dropped out of his right ear at the beginning of the interview. He paid no attention to it. It stayed exactly where it fell on his shoulder through the entire interview. Most people would have replaced it, assuming it was there for a necessary purpose if not so told. Or moved it from where it could fall again.

He was asked a perfectly proper question and avoided it after a pause. "e had gone into the favoring of the CIA in the Pent Papers, had, said he knew of some that he had had when with JCS that should have been in and weren't. John Hart asked him how he could show or would he say that he was not the military's answer to the CIA in this. After the pause Prouty went into a long non-response that lasted for the rest of the aired time. This was his only pause. I think there is no doubt he understood the question.

I do not suggest that this means he is the military's answer. And I am aware of his previous criticisms, which, unreasonable, include the Secret Service (responsible for JFK assassination). Even if I do not recall any serious criticism of the military by him.

He says he resigned or retired 10 years ago, which would mean before the JSK assassination.

On McCord, he quotes Dulles as saying that because of McCord's FBI training and background in his specialty and that he got with the CIA, he is the best and knows the best of the methods of both agencies.

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