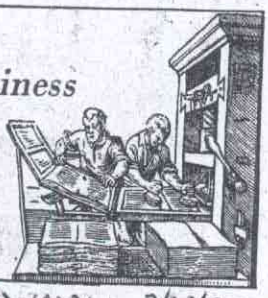
Book Business



Pitt Book World - 3/23/75

By JOYCE ILLIG

Company Not for Sale

DOES ANYBODY out there want to buy the paperback rights to Philip Agee's *Inside the Company: CIA Diary?* The Scott Meredith Literary Agency is reportedly looking for a buyer again after snatching the rights away from Straight Arrow Books (which had an oral agreement with the English publisher, Penguin), selling them to Warner Paperback Library and then watching the deal with Warner fall through, apparently because Warner's insurance company would not cover the risks involved.

Last week, the agent came back to Straight Arrow, which had been the only American publisher willing to risk a contract last October. Meredith offered Straight Arrow the book, including reprint rights which had been the problem in the previous negotiations.

Straight Arrow declined, Straight Arrow was going out of business, largely because of all the time and money that had been wasted on the Agee book before it was taken away from them.

JOYCE ILLIG writes regularly on the publishing scene for Book World.