



WILLIAM COLBY AND WIFE BARBARA

## COLBY IN RETIREMENT

Last November, in one of the least admirable actions of his administration, President Ford fired William Colby as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Why he fired him only Ford knows, and he isn't telling. There are two theories. One holds that Henry Kissinger, who on occasion wears brass knuckles on his tongue, persistently bad-mouthed Colby. The other is that Ford had to find some "fall guy" for the lengthy list of CIA transgressions and decided upon Colby.

Once he dismissed Colby, however, the President sadly learned that he had no immediate replacement for a man who had loyally served the agency for 26 years. He asked Colby to stay on until a successor (George Bush) could be found and confirmed. Graciously, Colby accepted.

On Jan. 27, 1976, George Bush, having relinquished the possibility of running on the Ford ticket as Vice President, took over as director of the CIA, and Colby retired -- on a pen-

sion of \$25,000 a year.

After 30 years in government service, Colby is hard at work on a book tentatively entitled "Constitutional Intelligence for America." It's an academic title whose capital letters spell out CIA. Colby says, "I realize the title doesn't have too much popular appeal, and I'll probably change it. But first I want to get the book out of my system. After that I'll probably do some lecture work.

"I've filed my application to practice law in the District of Columbia. I guess the bar association will have to obtain a security clearance on me, check out my character and all that stuff. And then if some law firm will have me, I'll probably enter what is euphemistically called 'the private sector.'

### 'No hard feelings'

Colby, who is 56 and in excellent physical shape, claims, "I bear no hard feelings towards anyone. I served at the President's pleasure, and he had a perfect right to do what he did when he did it.

"People ask me if I re-

gret having gone into the intelligence service, and my prompt answer is 'no.' I found it a fascinating and challenging life. Over the years we've brought intelligence into the permanent structure of the government and not merely as a wartime emergency. There are cadres in the CIA today far better trained than I was, a group of really brilliant young men and women.

### The new man's job

"For me the two most challenging periods were the Vietnam war and last year, 1975, a year in which we tried to bring the CIA out of the shadows and expose it without ruining it. We need an intelligence service in the government. I don't believe anyone would argue against that. How it's run is another matter. I leave that to my successor and those who follow.

"As for George Bush, I'm sure he'll do very well. He's had good experience in the U.N. and representing the country in China. He's personable and articulate.

### First on the agenda

"Would I rule out further government service in the future? I wouldn't. But right now I'm concentrating on the book, and then, with some luck, I'll hook up with some Washington law firm. After that? Well, I'll take it one day at a time."

William Egan Colby will go down in the annals of the CIA as the director upon whom were visited all the sins of his predecessors. In 73 appearances before various Congressional committees, he accepted their fire unflinchingly. The American intelligence community is much poorer since his departure.