

Ex-Agent Opens Can of C.I.A. Worms

by Harold Epstein

"Do you think there are CIA agents in this room?" Iconoclast asked ex-agent Victor Marchetti who wrote **The C.I.A. and the Cult of Intelligence**, one of the first books to expose the "shadow government" as he calls CIA.

"Well, yes," Marchetti answered calmly. "I know they monitor all of my speaking engagements, and they've admitted following media people publicly."

The chilling thing was that there were only a half-dozen people besides Marchetti in the DFW media room shortly before his lecture at North Texas University April 24.

The author of the explosive book **The C.I.A. and the Cult of Intelligence**, never met E. Howard Hunt, but he says he had heard of him.

"I think he was a temporary station chief in Mexico City at one time, but that's the farthest he ever got," Marchetti said.

Marchetti is a controversial man. He doesn't believe the CIA "as an organization" participated in the assassination of John



Photos by Gene Peterson



Kennedy, but is quick to point out how easily the agency topples governments and smoothly assassinates foreign political leaders all over the rest of the world.

Marchetti gave me no reasons for not suspecting CIA involvement in the JFK murder, and somehow seemed to dodge the issue and suggested that the "Dallas Police and FBI probably had something to do with it."

"But not the CIA as an organization; some individual operatives, working on their own, may have been there, but I don't really know."

"Why do you think the organization itself did not participate?" I asked.

"That's just not the way they



The C.I.A. is the "shadow government" of America, says Marchetti, and he should know.

operate."

Marchetti spent about half of his press conference and most of his lecture disputing that statement. From the halls of Ecuador to the shores of Saigon he detailed atrocity after blunder, murder after deception perpetrated by the CIA.

He labeled presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon as "liars," claiming they had agency information that was "purposely kept from the public."

On the positive side of the agency's activities he said, "Sometimes the CIA does carry out the wishes of the administration."

Other times, according to Marchetti, the largest airline company, CIA, does pretty much what it pleases.

He detailed an amusing incident that had the CIA hung up in their own tape for six months in 1966 because "they realized that they owned all this aircraft and didn't know how to manage it or even how they acquired it."

What is true is that the CIA is now the largest airline in the world, possessing more planes than any private corporation.

"The worst thing is that the CIA lies to itself," said Marchetti.