

## THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT

# Vancouver Home Prison

Editor's note: John Meier chooses to become a self-exiled fugitive rather than continue his battle against Howard Hughes and the U.S. Government, but the Canadian Parliament becomes interested in the amount of influence on their government being exerted from across the border, in Part Six of *The Invisible Government*.)

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After he had been snatched at gunpoint by IRS agents in the community of Point Roberts, John Meier always wondered where and when the next blow would fall.

Visitors to his quiet home in Delta, Canada, are met by a man of restless energy, hyperactive who involuntarily keeps glancing out of a large floor-to-ceiling window at the world outside.

Meier seems to live under a self-imposed house arrest.

Afraid to go out at night, he will rarely if ever leave the house alone in broad daylight.

Beyond his living room window is a hostile world and Meier is never sure that the car that comes behind his isn't being driven by someone in the CIA or Intertel.

Playing it safe he stays within his prison as much as he can.

Following his indictment for tax evasion in August, 1973, Meier continued to visit the U.S. from his home in British Columbia but his visits became less and less frequent.

When asked to meet Watergate investigators at the end of 1973, he would only go after Judge John Sirica gave him immunity from further government action while he traveled to Washington.

It was at this time that the Canadian

public first became aware of Meier's presence.

Canadian member of Parliament John Reynolds, a Conservative representing the area in which Meier lives, complained to the House of Commons about the harassment and surveillance being kept on the Meier family.

At this time there were only suspicions that the CIA was involved and named by Reynolds as the chief culprit was Intertel.

When it was shown that Intertel agents had obtained confidential information on Meier from the immigration department and turned it over to U.S. authorities, Meier received an official apology.

Later, when the Liberal government was pressed by members of the New Democratic Party to give Meier and his family immigrant status, it was granted

### —PART VI

## son For Meier

in the fall of 1974 after a wait of more than two years.

Meanwhile, to the south, his case ground on as the government pressed ahead with tax evasion charges.

On July 15, 1974, Meier's lawyer, Bob Wyshak, caused a stir in the Nevada courtroom when he petitioned the judge for permission to take President Nixon's deposition along with that of his brother Don Nixon.

Wyshak wanted to subpoena the brothers whom he said had information relative to his client's defense.

He maintained that his client had been illegally wire-tapped and recordings of his conversations with his one-time friend Don Nixon had been made by Secret Service agents acting on presidential orders.

Wyshak said it was not likely that President Nixon could attend the court and testify but his deposition would es-

tablish if there had been any authorization for the alleged surveillance of Meier and Don Nixon.

Wyshak's motion was denied.

But in response to requests from Wyshak for details of bugging and surveillance against Meier, the U.S. attorney replied that there were only six government agencies besides the Secret Service that did those sorts of operations.

None of these agencies had carried out bugging or surveillance of Meier, said the government. However, no mention was made of what the Secret Service might have done. The CIA's name never cropped up either.

A further move was made by Wyshak earlier this year to have the CIA turn over what had been collected on Meier but by this time the former Hughes aide was on the run — no longer a defendant

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# Hughes Aid Shuns Travel After Border, IRS Woes

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in a court case but a fugitive from American justice.

It all happened quickly.

On Dec. 2, 1974, Meier was ordered to stand trial for income tax evasion before Judge George Boldt in Nevada.

Meier didn't turn up. At the time the jury was being sworn in Meier was in London, England.

According to a court official, the sequence of events were as follows:

- Dec. 2, the trial was scheduled to begin but the defendant failed to appear.

- Dec. 3, Judge Boldt seized Meier's original bail of \$100,000 when the court convened and Meier was still absent. Judge Boldt put out a bench warrant for Meier's arrest.

- Dec. 4, the court informed that Meier was ill in London appointed a physician to examine him but the American embassy couldn't find Meier and it appeared as if the defendant was avoiding the authorities.

Judge Boldt then set Jan. 6 as a new trial date and ordered Meier to show up three days before to explain his medical problems and show cause why he should

have the bench warrant lifted and his \$100,000 back.

Meier's version of the events is different. He said that while in London he was suffering from Meniere's Disease which is an infection of the inner ear, plus hypertension. He says he visited a London specialist and was warned against travel as he might go deaf. The examinations took place Dec. 1 and 2. He also disputes the claim that he was never contacted by the embassy.

He says he was contacted by the embassy and was told to come in for an examination.

Meier asked if he could bring in his own doctor as well but says this was denied.

"They told me to come alone — no one else would be allowed in," said Meier.

He says he didn't want to do this because he was afraid of being kidnaped and spirited back to the United States.

Meier then suggested that he would meet an embassy doctor in any London clinic the embassy would care to name. He says the authorities wouldn't agree to this either.

By this time Meier says he was getting

the feeling he was being watched again. As it happened he was. A hotel detective called Lindsay was monitoring his every move in the Carlton Tower Hotel.

A record of the phone calls Meier made was supplied by Lindsay to embassy officials plus other details of his stay in the hotel.

Wyshak discovered Lindsay's part in the surveillance of Meier when he saw documents the detective had passed on show up in the Reno court.

Beginning to feel the heat Meier suddenly left London for Vancouver on Dec. 5.

When questioned by reporters about whether he would show for trial Jan. 6, Meier maintained the illusion he might by answering: "I've no plans not to be there."

But when the time came, Meier was again noticeable by his absence. Faced with this Judge Boldt declared him a fugitive and slapped a \$500,000 bail on the defendant.

Meier was now a criminal.

(Tomorrow: The Canadians begin investigating the Hughes-CIA involvement in Canadian affairs, and John Meier vows to fight on, in the conclusion of The Invisible Government.)