

CIA on the Trail of a Book About CIA

By Jack Anderson

The cloak-and-dagger boys at the Central Intelligence Agency are trying to get an advance copy of a book which is highly critical of the CIA's "dirty tricks department."

The author, ex-Air Force Col. L. Fletcher Prouty, was the Pentagon support officer for the CIA over a nine-year period. He did everything from supplying them with James Bond weapons to shipping three dozen lobsters to a CIA bigwig. And he has written a book about it, "The Secret Team."

To get the unedited galley, the CIA library approached the distinguished Sidney Kramer bookstore only a few blocks from the White House. A representative of the bookstore immediately called Prouty and suggested he could "help the sale" of the book by providing a copy of the galley.

But Prouty had been in intelligence too long to be an easy touch. He agreed to meet with the Kramer representative and then secretly recorded their conversation. Here is a partial transcript:

"Do you represent others?" asked Prouty.

"I can tell you who wants this," confided the emissary. "They're on our backs—the CIA."

"They are?"

"Evidently someone was going to present them with a copy the day before yesterday," said the representative,

but the deal fell through.

Prouty refused to turn over the galley to the CIA, which had a messenger waiting for them at the bookstore. We can provide the CIA, however, with some of the highlights:

CIA Secrets

- The CIA, Prouty charges, trained agents in the Maine woods because of the similarity to the Russian fir forests. Then it flew them to Norway where they were hopped into Russia on a light pontooned plane which landed on a hidden lake.

- The CIA skillfully managed to keep out of the Pentagon Papers almost all mention of its assassination and other "dirty tricks" operations in South Vietnam, alleges Prouty. Instead, the CIA larded the Papers with examples of how good its intelligence proved to be.

- In 1959, one of CIA Chief Allen Dulles' spy planes allegedly was shot down over Russia. The crew was captured, questioned by Soviet intelligence and later quietly returned to the United States. (They were debriefed after their return, by, among others, James McCord, a former CIA man convicted in the Watergate scandal.)

- Even though the late President Kennedy ordered the Joint Chiefs to keep a tight rein on covert CIA military operations after the Bay of Pigs debacle, the CIA circumvented the order in Vietnam and the Pentagon supinely let

them get away with it, says Prouty.

Footnote: In an earlier incident, the CIA went to court to block a book by one of its former employees, Victor Marchetti. But Prouty was never on the CIA payroll. When we asked the CIA whether an attempt would be made to suppress Prouty's book, a spokesman said: "There are no plans whatsoever to do anything about the book."

Headlines, Footnotes

Wistful Wallace—We reported last July that Alabama's Gov. George Wallace didn't consider his confinement to a wheelchair as an obstacle to his presidential ambitions but rather looked upon himself as a poor man's Franklin D. Roosevelt. He pointed out to subordinates that FDR had run four presidential campaigns from a wheelchair. But the wheelchair has slowed Wallace down and has raised doubts among his supporters that he remains a creditable candidate. As a result, the campaign cash has stopped flowing in. In 1968, Wallace raised a staggering \$9 million in \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills. After he wound up in a wheelchair, however, he collected less than \$2 million in 1972. He now desperately needs money to pay old campaign bills and to fuel his future political campaigns. He plans, therefore, to send solicitation letters to everyone on his mailing lists and to make personal calls to his big financial back-

ers. He wants to fill his campaign chest with enough money to run for governor again in 1974 and for president in 1976.

Tax Dodge Award—Out of his exhaustive research on tax inequities, ex-Sen. Fred Harris has agreed to select for us a tax avoider of the week. This week's award goes to the Aluminum Company of America. In 1971, Alcoa didn't pay a penny on profits of \$50,199,000, Harris charges. Other corporations paid a corporate tax of 48 per cent. Alcoa was able to get away with this gigantic tax dodge because of the mineral depletion allowance, which permits mining interests to avoid most of their income tax. The rest of the taxpayers, of course, must make up what Alcoa was excused from paying. Harris' Tax Action Campaign plans to picket and pamphlet the major tax avoiders every week up to Income Tax Day on April 16.

Foolish Films—The White House, through its Office of Management and Budget, has issued a memo directing government agencies to stop making so many foolish films and tapes. The instructions went out after Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr. (R-Calif.) discovered that the government was wasting millions on dubious audio-visual productions. He found that the Pentagon, for instance, has produced 12 separate films on how to brush your teeth.