

# It's the Talk of the Town

By JOYCE ILLIG

JAMES MCCORD has postponed the publication of *Watergate Sanction*, his telltale Watergate book. Earlier this month, shortly before he was scheduled to meet with his publisher, Edward Uhlman of Exposition Press, to complete work on the manuscript, McCord telegraphed Uhlman: "Judge John Sirica has issued an order today banning any further comments by me on the Watergate case. I am assuming that this order also bans my book and therefore I am canceling the meeting on Friday and the immediate publication of *Watergate Sanction*."

Then McCord wrote to the State University of New York in New Paltz—an early stop in his subsequently squelched lecture tour: "As you know, Judge John Sirica recently gagged me and Jeb Magruder, and ordered us to make no further comments about the Watergate case. In so doing, he did Richard Nixon's handiwork for him, unwittingly, far more effectively than Nixon himself could have done. There are three men Nixon wants to silence, and they are John Dean, James McCord and Jeb Magruder. And now Sirica has just banned two of them from speaking. It was a part of Nixon's 'new game plan' to discredit Dean, and to silence McCord and Magruder. Judge Sirica's order forbade me from speaking even in church, so now I have lost not only freedom of speech but freedom of religion as well.

"My wife says that I have lost freedom of speech and of religion, but that she has not, so at least she will be heard from. A number of religious organizations have already asked her to speak. She has agreed and has chosen as her topic, *Watergate, Religious Freedom and the Freedom of Speech*."

McCord's publisher is only slightly daunted by Judge Sirica's edict, and concedes that he can't be as daring as he'd like. But Uhlman does have a plan to publish a 32-page pamphlet containing the portion of the manuscript that has to do only with Mc-

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Cord and with what is a matter of public record. It will sell for \$2, which will be credited toward purchase of the book. He's waiting for an answer to this proposal from McCord.

"If McCord can't write it," he said, "I could. I could take whatever he has given me and I know enough about his own life to make it interesting."

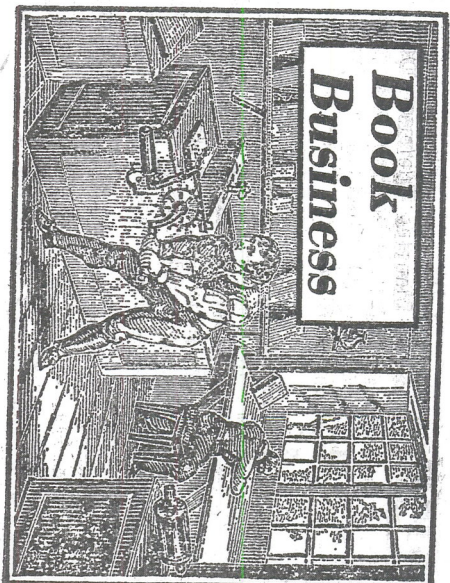
FORMER New York Times reporter Tad Szulc shuffles the pack of disguises created by F. Howard Hunt and reveals Hunt's CIA activities in a second, never-before-published plan for an invasion of Cuba in 1964. The story will appear in his book, *Compulsive Spy*, an expose of the life and times of F. Howard Hunt, to be published in January by Viking.

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Szulc's study of Hunt recounts "in vivid and sometimes appalling detail" his progress from espionage agent of the 1940s to White House "plumber" of 1972, beginning with Hunt's OSS days in the jungles of Burma. Although Szulc brings to the book his own background of covering Latin America for years for *The Times*, he did not get any firsthand information from Hunt himself. He did meet with James McCord once during the summer and recounts that incident in the book.

Szulc has completed another book that VIKING will publish next spring: *Innocents at Home*, a positive portrait of America. He is currently working on a major study of Nixon's foreign policy.

LAWRENCE O'BRIEN has been working on a book for Doubleday for two years in which he discusses his two decades in national politics and



government. The book is due to appear in the spring. O'Brien was a participant in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and was twice chair- man of the Democratic Party. And the first discovered Watergate caper was aimed at his office. "I was a prime target for the White House since 1970 and then they let me share that role with the candidates when they came along," he said. "I have some good material and I don't believe I'll appear anywhere else until my book comes out. I thought that when the Internal Revenue kept visiting you every few months that it was all a part of their usual procedure."

O'Brien was on the enemy list and says if he could see the documents that were photographed when his office was broken into, he could probably theorize about what they were after. O'Brien started a consulting business in New York in 1969, and for a year Howard Hughes was a client. The break-in to his office has been linked unofficially to that.

O'Brien says he has no immediate plans except to write his book and, among other legal actions, to defend himself against a \$5 million libel suit by Maurice Stans.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS plans to publish Paul R. Clancy's biography of Sam Ervin, *A Cowboy Lawyer*, in the spring. Clancy is Washington correspondent for the *Charlotte Observer*. The story, according to the publisher, concentrates on "the shy and romantic youth who developed into the politician who has captured the love of millions with his homespun yarns, his wit and wisdom and, above, all, his integrity."

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