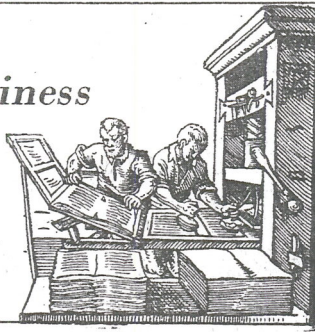


Book Business



By JOYCE ILLIG

Roman à CREEP

JOHN EHRLICHMAN has written a novel called *The Company* which involves a CIA plot to overthrow the president. It will be published by Simon & Schuster next summer. Collins has purchased the British rights for \$20,000. The London Sunday Times has acquired the serialization for \$25,000, and Ehrlichman reportedly received a \$50,000 advance with escalators that could take it to \$100,000. Ehrlichman's editor, Michael Korda, describes the book as a roman à clef.

S&S kept their contract with Ehrlichman under cover because, Korda claims, they didn't want him hassled while he was writing. Korda and S&S president Richard Snyder first read Ehrlichman's outline about a year ago. Snyder said that they discussed the question of Ehrlichman's being published by the same house that issued *All the President's Men*. "It shows you something about publishing," said Snyder. "Book publishing is not supposed to take a position. It's purpose is to disseminate information."

No one could accuse S&S of not disseminating information about Watergate. In addition to the Woodward and Bernstein exposé, they have just published Maureen Dean's woes of being a Watergate wife. Still to come are John Dean's memoirs, Richard Ben-Veniste's cover-up trial experiences as assistant special prosecutor, not to mention John Mitchell's memoirs.

Michael Korda is also working with

JOYCE ILLIG writes regularly on the publishing scene for Book World.

Mitchell and said he couldn't speculate about a publication date, but imagines "it will move quite quickly," Korda says he's met with Mitchell several times and finds him "a very shrewd man with a terrific, sardonic sense of humor. He's very realistic about his experiences and what happened and his place in it all."

What makes S&S think that Mitchell would write the truth in his book? "Because I met with him on numerous occasions and saw the material he has and I have faith that he will," Snyder answered.

After the Fall

ELLIOT RICHARDSON'S return to the Cabinet is arousing a lot of commercial interest in the book he's been writing for Holt, Rinehart and Winston. The latest rumor from England suggests that it's a Watergate memoir meant to clear his way toward a 1980 bid for the White House. Tony Ripley, a friend and former New York Times reporter, is said to have written it with him.

Irving Goodman, vice-president and head of the trade department at Holt, said the rumors about the book are not true. "It's not his memoirs," said Goodman, "It's a book about what the citizen ought to do if he wants his government to work." Ripley is not directly involved with the book's authorship, according to Goodman. Richardson wrote the first draft, then Ripley did some homework and research for him, after which Richardson completed the final draft.

Goodman said that Richardson talks about the 1973 Saturday Night Massacre only in the context of other points he is making about responsiveness in government. He also makes points about HEW, his years in Massachusetts politics and his time at Defense, but the bulk of the book is about "what government ought to be right now," said Goodman, "It's really the idea that the people need to be — and better be — involved and not leave everything to the politicians."

Goodman said he expected Richardson to deliver the final chapter upon his return to the United States. He also said the book should run close to 400 pages and Holt will be on a crash schedule to submit the manuscript to book clubs in December and publish in April or May.