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Polite phrasing, but the exhaustive study details hidden cash drains, suspicious European loan arrangements and almost on-the-scene reports of stormy executive budget meetings, courtesy of a diary kept by a participant.

Freedom of the Press

More stories of human foibles fill the two-inch thick **Freedom of the Press** (Item 9J, \$5.25), a compilation of hearings before Senator Sam Ervin's Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights. Don't let the price or the size of the book deter you if you're interested in true tales with a cast of characters straight off yesterday's front pages or last night's evening news.

Read Ervin's letter to the President requesting information about an FBI investigation of CBS news correspondent Daniel Shorr. Read then-White House Counsel John Dean's answer that Shorr was being considered for a top administration position—somewhere in the environmental field, according to press secretary Ronald Ziegler. Read William Ruckelshaus, then-head of the Environmental Protection Agency informing Ervin that his agency never considered Shorr for any position . . .

Also of interest, and a topic generally buried in the public commentary on the freedom of the press, is testimony of David Rintels, a television script writer. In several pages of fascinating testimony, Rintels tells stories of script ideas canned because they hint of controversy, of programming in the public interest that is replaced by programming consistently in television's or a

sponsor's interest.

"I was asked to write an episode for the series, 'The FBI,' on a subject of my choice at the time, five or six years ago, when the four little girls were killed by a bomb in a Birmingham church," Rintels testified. "It had been announced that the FBI was involving itself in the case and I told the producer I wanted to write a fictional account of it.

"He checked with the sponsor, Ford Motor Co. and with the FBI—every proposed show is cleared sequentially through

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the producing company, the FBI, the network and the sponsor and any of the four can veto any show for any reason which it need not disclose—and reported back that they would be delighted to have me write about a church bombing subject with only three stipulations.

"The church must be in the North, there could be no Negroes involved and the bombing could have nothing at all to do with civil rights," Rintels said. "After I said I wouldn't write that program, I asked if I could do a show on police bru-

ality, also in the news at the time.

"Certainly, the answer came back, as long as the charge was trumped up, the policeman vindicated and the man who brought the specious charge prosecuted."

The book makes for interesting reading in the evening, when the television is quiet.

How To Order Items

These three books may be obtained by making check or money order payable to "Superintendent of Documents." Print or type desired publications and item number (listed after boldface title) on one piece of paper. Then, to expedite order processing, provide your name and address on a separate piece of paper for use as a return mailing label.

Mail payment, order list, name and address mailing label to: Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19120.

Also printed by Uncle Sam's print shop, but usually not available through the Government Printing Office, are a number of good, solid consumer-oriented booklets dealing with subjects from carpet and rug buying to airplane passengers' rights as they pertain to loss of baggage, flight delays and so on. The booklets are distributed through the Consumer Product Information Center.

If you would like to receive free notice of the availability of such material, as well as the center's informative releases on highlights of federal consumer publications, drop a short note to Consumer Product Information, Pueblo, Colorado 81009. ■