



Investigating With Jack Anderson

William Hogan

IN AN EPILOGUE to "The Anderson Papers," columnist Jack Anderson writes what could be a capsule review of his own book. Essentially this is what it is all about:

"Our government was not working. The FBI was chasing the wrong people. The Justice Department, instead of prosecuting white-collar crooks, was helping them. Men who answered to neither Congress nor the electorate had seized the power of life and death over all of us. Knowledge affecting our destiny was kept secret under the guise of national security. Presidents and their agents, fearing the truth, deliberately lied to us. In hundreds of ways, government was enslaving a supposedly free people."

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ANDERSON is the one-time Mormon missionary who took over the Washington Merry-Go-Round column when Drew Pearson died in 1969. In this record he shows that investigative reporting in high political places is a hazardous occupation. The FBI has trailed him, trying to find his pipeline to White House intelligence digests.

The arrest of his assistant Les Whitten was contrived when Whitten tried to return stolen documents to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. R. H. Haldeman would have given just about anything to nail An-

deron before Haldeman was forced into retirement. All efforts failed, in spite of watches kept on just about every Xerox machine in town.

"The Anderson Papers" contains little hard news. These are stories behind the stories. How his revelations of the Dita Beard memo in the ITT case was a preview of what came out in the Watergate hearings. Or White House maneuverings that tilted U.S. sympathy toward Pakistan, while proclaiming neutrality, in the war with India.

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ANDERSON, like Pearson, can be wrong. He broke an inaccurate story about Senator Thomas Eagleton's alleged drunken driving, but apologized for that goof on national television, and does again in this book (written with fellow newsman George Clifford).

It is a lively record, skirting a gee-whiz approach to an appraisal of recent political morality in Washington. "Only a few men can survive the crawl to the top with their values unimpaired," he notes. But Anderson is not pessimistic. American government must be reformed and redefined, he urges here — "not by revolution, but by restoration." He is one of the journalistic forces at work which might help bring this about (Random House; \$6.95).