

St. Clair Partner Was CIA Front Man

By Jack Anderson

A law partner of President Nixon's impeachment attorney, James St. Clair, was a front man until last year for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Paul F. Hellmuth, the managing partner of St. Clair's Boston law firm, has been associated over the past decade with an industrial security company called Anderson Security Consultants, Inc.

We have now established that the company was a CIA front until it was disbanded last year. Hellmuth was then listed officially as president of the firm.

We first learned of Anderson Security's CIA connections from confidential tape recordings of former presidential aide Charles Colson. He described the company as "wholly owned" by the CIA. Insiders at the CIA, he said, "call it an agency proprietary."

We located two former Anderson Security associates who completely confirmed Colson's charges.

Ostensibly, the firm distributed document shredders, conducted security sweeps and planned surveillance programs for industrial concerns. But behind this facade, Anderson Security also funneled money to

support the CIA's clandestine operations.

The former associates told us that mysterious checks, written for large amounts, would frequently arrive at the office of the firm's secretary-treasurer, Virginia attorney L. Lee Bean, who would deposit the money in a local bank and disperse it upon instruction.

The secret instructions often came, say our sources, from James St. Clair's quiet law partner. Some of the mystery money was dispatched to Miami banks and was used allegedly to support the CIA's anti-Castro activities.

Our sources say that the Anderson firm's industrial security business was also a front to hide another CIA activity. One of the firm's primary functions, the sources say, was to shred sensitive documents discarded by defense contractors "so the Russians wouldn't get them."

This is a clear violation of the law. The National Security Act, which established the Central Intelligence Agency, specifically prohibits the agency from engaging in "internal security functions."

Yet for over a decade, Anderson Security employees regularly visited defense contrac-

tors to destroy classified papers. They hauled around portable shredders, mounted on trucks and on a jeep-pulled trailer. Hot documents were dumped into the machines, mixed with water and ground to a pulp.

When the mess dried, it was cut into large, flat cakes and discarded. One real estate developer, affiliated with Anderson Security, wanted to use the super-secret pulp as insulation in the buildings he constructed, by the plan never worked out.

Former officials of the Anderson firm insist it was disbanded over a year ago. But CIA expert John Marks, co-author of the controversial book "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," who helped us with our investigation, learned that the company had apparently transferred its operations from Springfield, Va., to the Boston area a year ago. We have been unable to trace it further.

We contacted Paul Hellmuth who refused to discuss Anderson Security's links with the CIA. But he insisted to my associate, Joe Spear, that James St. Clair didn't know "the first thing about" the security firm.

Other lawyers close to Hellmuth told us, however, it would

"greatly surprise" them if St. Clair were unaware of the activities of his managing partner. The ethics of the profession, said our sources, would demand such disclosure among partners.

At this writing, St. Clair has not responded to our requests for comment. Attorney L. Lee Bean was vacationing in Austria and couldn't be reached. A CIA spokesman informed us the agency would have "no comment."

Inside Man—Former Rep. Wayne Aspinall (D-Colo.), who used to champion the mining industry as chairman of the House Interior Committee, has now turned up on their payroll as a \$1,750 a month lobbyist on the strip-mining bill.

In apparent violation of House rules which allow ex-congressmen on the floor only if they are "not interested in any... bill pending before Congress," Aspinall has been genially arm-twisting his old pals right in the well of the House to vote against strip-mining controls.

Aspinall's employer, American Metal Climax, has a major stake in strip mining, and Aspinall has been lining up interviews with his ex-congressional colleagues for industry types.

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