

Prouty: see Berkeley Gazette 3 Jul 71, this file.

Merry-Go-Round

SFChronicle

MAR 6 1973



A Book About the CIA's 'Dirty Tricks'



Jack Anderson

THE cloak-and dagger boys at the Central Intelligence Agency are trying to get an advance copy of a book which is highly critical of the CIA's "dirty tricks department."

The author, ex-Air Force Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty, was the Pentagon support officer for the CIA over a nine-year period. He did everything from supplying them with James Bond weapons to shipping three dozen lobsters to a CIA bigwig. And he has written a book about it, "The Secret Team."

To get the unedited galleys, the CIA library approached the distinguished Sidney Kramer Bookstore only a few blocks from the White House. A representative of the bookstore immediately called Prouty and suggested he could "help the sale" of the book by providing a copy of the galleys.

But Prouty had been in intelligence too long to be an easy touch. He agreed to meet with the Kramer representative and then secretly recorded their conversation. Here is a partial transcript:

"Do you represent others?" asked Prouty.

"I can tell you who wants this," confided the emissary. "They're on our backs — the CIA."

"They are?"

"Evidently someone was going to present them with a copy the day before

yesterday," said the representative, but the deal fell through.

★ ★ ★

PROUTY refused to turn over the galleys to the CIA, which had a messenger waiting for them at the bookstore. We can provide the CIA, however, with some of the highlights:

- The CIA, Prouty charges, trained agents in the Maine woods because of the similarity to the Russian fir forests. Then it flew them to Norway where they were hopped into Russia on a light pontooned plane which landed on a hidden lake.

- The CIA skillfully managed to keep out of the Pentagon Papers almost all mention of its assassination and other "dirty tricks" operations in South Vietnam, alleges Prouty. Instead, the CIA larded the papers with examples of how good its intelligence proved to be.

- In 1959, one of CIA chief Allen Dulles' spy planes allegedly was shot down over Russia. The crew was captured, questioned by Soviet Intelligence and later quietly returned to the United States. (They were debriefed after their return, by, among others, James McCord, a former CIA man convicted in the Watergate scandal.)

- Even though the late President Kennedy ordered the Joint Chiefs to keep a tight rein on covert CIA military operations after the Bay of Pigs debacle, the CIA circumvented the order in Vietnam and the Pentagon supinely let them get away with it, says Prouty.