

12/24/73

Dear Barry,

I've read the Hunt story with interest. Elizabeth McIntosh is not in the phone book. I'd appreciate knowing how to get in touch with her and anyone else connected with that operation for the future possibility that I may be able to do what I thought the ACLU might do for me and apparently decided not to do, file suit.

If there is a more precise address than 17th and Penna Ave., NW, I'd like that, too, because I believe the rebuilding of that corner came later.

You know the outlines of what I'm working on. Without giving you detail and addressing only the nature of the publishers' operation, let me tell you a little story about one of my New Orleans "adventures."

There was this young woman who was, without any possibility of doubt, an informant for the local Naros and probably was for the federals, to whom she did give information. I spoke to both Naros and saw her at the locals' offices. She also became an informant for me. One of her purposes, it appeared, was to feed me bum stuff. However, by winnowing through what I got from her I was led to much of value.

In some ways she was brilliant. Biggest liar I ever met. She was subject to moods and could be the most perverse person I ever met, when she was that way. In one of those moods, when she wanted to annoy me, she laughed because I had taken Whitewash "to one of our publishers." (She claimed to be working for the CIA, she produced a pay record of it that I presumed to be forged.) I asked her which one and she said she could not remember the name but it began with a "P". I asked her who told her and she gave me the name of a man I knew was connected with the CIA through his role in a Cuban outfit.

She has no interest in books and wouldn't know Praeger, to whom I had gone but almost nobody knew it, from Acropolis. The manuscript was read overnight there, and I mean at night because I delivered it at the end of the day and got it back the next day. The director of special projects, a friend of a friend, wanted to do it. Praeger, personally, nixed it.

We all know Praeger's connections and that he was not the only publisher with them.

However, this came to mind when I read of that unit.

To "maintain contact with publishers who were assisting the CIA" did not require "10 or 12 employees," not even if most were clerks and messengers. So, I believe this unit had other functions and it may be the one of which I know, with an Arlington post-office box and a Washington, D.C. bank account.

The story of the young woman is not the reason I believe the CIA spooked me on this book.

So, if you have or come across any more information, no matter how vague or uncertain, I'd appreciate it. Or if you can direct me to anyone.

On the references to Baker and his effort to link the CIA with the "caper," I have just read Helms' testimony before the Ervin committee. On pp. 3277-81 ~~maxima~~ Baker and Thompson are pretty open about this, with an apples-and-oranges approach. I have not seen Hunt's testimony, of course, and I can hardly wait to. But I was paying close attention and I'm certain that it was Baker who switched to an executive-session approach as soon as Hunt mentioned "domestic intelligence." It was a remarkably brief executive session. And in this connection, where Helms asked that certain things be incorporated in his testimony, one I recall is the appropriate excerpting of his Symington committee testimony, it was not. Helms' explanation of Hunt's departure from CIA is not consistent with other accounts.

Thanks.

Sincerely,