

Sore Throat

There is a basic philosophical proposition which states that it is impossible to arrive at truth if one begins with a false premise. In your last issue ("Strange Bedfellows," RS 213), ROLLING STONE demonstrated anew the accuracy of that idea.

You report that you have discovered that I am "Deep Throat," the unnamed informer of *All the President's Men*. You are wrong, of course, as I could have told you if you had just taken the trouble to check with me before rushing to press. Your principal error is that you start from a false premise.

Your theory is built upon the "fact" that I was a CIA man—all else follows from that. The real fact is that I am not now, nor have I ever been, a CIA man; specifically, I have never received information from the CIA about anyone in the White House, never been given instructions to plant news stories on behalf of the CIA, never received a salary from the CIA, never had regular meetings with the CIA, and never performed any personal service of any kind for the CIA. All this is well established on the public record (didn't you read the Rockefeller Commission Report?) and it cuts the heart out of your carefully constructed hypothesis.

Don't quote me all your "evidence"—opinions of other journalists, magazines, CIA memos taken out of context, or other men's speculations. I was *there* when the Mullen Company's arrangement with the CIA was discussed; I *know* what happened. I am an eyewitness and I have testified under oath; my statements have been documented and accepted by competent authorities. Can any of your "authorities" say the same?

There is no point in discussing the particulars of your article because they are irrelevant, springing as they do from a false premise. Just take some advice: next time, do your homework. If you are writing about a living individual, talk to him—he might surprise you by knowing more about himself than you do. And be sure to read the Rockefeller Commission Report. It is not as

Rolling
Stone
June 14, 1976

B. Bennett
reply to
Howard Kohn
Article

spicy as your own publication (there are no pictures), but it is a lot better informed.

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HOWARD KOHN REPLIES: *Mr. Bennett's testimony under oath before*

the 1974 House Special Subcommittee on Intelligence, belies his latter-day denials to the Rockefeller Commission. "Bob Woodward of the 'Washington Post' interviewed me at great length on numerous occasions," Bennett told the committee on July 2nd, 1974. "I have told Woodward everything I know about the Watergate case, except the Mullen Company's tie to the CIA. I never mentioned that to him. It has never appeared in any 'Washington Post' story. I pointed this out to Mr. Eisenstadt. I said, 'As a result, I am a good friend of Woodward.'"

Eisenstadt, according to a CIA internal memo obtained by the Senate Watergate committee, was the CIA agent to whom Bennett reported so the CIA could "be brought up to date on developments resulting from the 'Watergate Five' incident." The Rockefeller report states that Bennett, with a CIA case officer, Bennett's role as a CIA subordinate who leaked information to the media on orders from CIA higher-ups became part of the public record when U.S. Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled on May 23rd, 1974, that Bennett's revelations in the Ellsberg case were "attributable to the CIA."

As for Mr. Bennett's distress at not meeting me prior to the article, I can only point him to his faithful assistants in the Hughes organization who fended off every effort I made to talk to him. —H.K.