

# Hill to Be Told of More Falsified Data

By Jack Anderson

The Pentagon has now admitted falsifying reports to cover up the bombing of Cambodia before the 1970 invasion. Senate witnesses are prepared to testify, however, that both the bombing and the falsifying continued after the invasion.

The Pentagon has also admitted falsifying the casualty reports to cover up the deaths of 102 Americans in Cambodia and Laos on secret intelligence-gathering missions.

It has taken the Pentagon more than two years to get around to admitting the truth about these missions. We reported on March 30, 1971, that "MACSOG teams, composed of U.S. special forces and South Vietnamese rangers, have made several raids into both countries. The secret messages referred to the Cambodian raids by the code name 'Salem House' and identified the Laos incursions as 'Prairie Fire' . . .

"A secret summary of the MACSOG casualties alone, dated March 6, 1970, listed 77 Americans killed and 37 missing in Laos," our story continued. "Scores more were lost on clandestine missions after March, but we have been unable to get the secret figures."

We were assailed by the Pentagon for this report at the same time that the Justice De-

partment conducted a grand jury investigation to discover our Pentagon sources. Now the Pentagon has admitted its spokesman lied, and we told the truth.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, meanwhile, will receive sworn testimony that a hush-hush "Special Operations Group" directed the reconnaissance missions into Cambodia, Laos and North Vietnam.

SOG operated out of an old office building in Saigon. The entrance was marked by a skull topped with a green beret. The group, which was run by the Central Intelligence Agency, maintained three "command and control" centers in Vietnam.

Senate witnesses will also tell about the secret operations in Cambodia and Laos of the "Blackbirds," as the air squadrons were known because of their lack of identifying markings. The National Security Council ordered the secrecy cloak on the raids for diplomatic reasons.

Senate sources tell us that upcoming testimony will also focus on the "phantom command" which operated outside of normal military channels. These same sources report that bases are now being set up in Thailand and the Philippines to train Cambodian forces under U.S. auspices.

**Presidential Spending:** The nearly \$2 million in federal funds which was squandered on President Nixon's homes in San Clemente and Key Biscayne represents only a portion of the public's contribution. When all the moneys are counted, the total is likely to climb over \$3 million.

Despite an intense cover-up effort on the part of the White House, for example, we have uncovered several major expenditures which are yet unreported. They include:

- A \$129,000 instrument landing system which the Navy purchased for the El Toro Marine base, located 30 miles north of San Clemente, to enable the presidential jet to land there in inclement weather. The system was installed and is maintained by the Federal Aviation Administration.

- A \$400,000 helipad which was built at Key Biscayne by the Army engineers. The helipad is a standard item, but it was installed in such a way that it juts into the waters of Biscayne Bay. A special foundation, therefore, had to be built.

- A \$100,000 special study, financed by the taxpayers of California, to determine the

feasibility of relocating the Santa Fe railroad tracks that run between the President's home and the Pacific Ocean. Although he has pared the state welfare budget to the bone, Gov. Ronald Reagan apparently had no qualms about charging the study to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. State officials subsequently learned that the Santa Fe railroad had already conducted a similar study and had concluded that the project would be too expensive. The \$100,000, therefore, was never spent.

**Footnote:** The official portion of the Western White House is located at the Coast Guard's Loran station, which is adjacent to the San Clemente residence. According to our sources, the Coast Guard "went broke" in support of the West Coast operation, but the White House has refused to release the exact figures. The taxpayers also footed the bill for a shark net and underwater sensor devices around Key Biscayne, but the costs of these, too, have apparently been declared state secrets.

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