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Cia Proprietaries, Assets

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John Marks has a long article in today's WxPost Outlook section titled The CIA's corporate shell game. While it contains enormous less specifics than is possible, it holds some that are new to me and is the longest treatment I've ever seen on the CIA's use of lawyers, limited to the proprietaries, however.

Later, after time for the deliverer of the morning paper to sleep, I'll try to get copies for each of you. If I cannot it will be easier for JL to have xeroxed inDC.

What will now start the crazies yowling is the account of Bud's new partner's earlier partnership in a firm handling CIA proprietary business. That firm is now Burwell, Hansen and Manley. Manley replaced Robert McCandless. You may recall he was co-counsel with Charles Shaffer to John Dean during Watergate. The firm is now Fensterwald and McCandless, moved from Bud's offices in the Christian Science Bldg to 1707 H St, I'm sure an address I could find in my files with a little effort. It still does not persuade me Bud is CIA, no matter how easy the argument that what he has done can be interpreted as serving its interests. His mind and ego work in special ways.

My only surprise about the assets and proprietaries is that none of this came out earlier. I was cued in on the Mullen Co. in 1968 through address tracings. It was clear from these tracings that Mullen had to have been CIA by 1960. Thirteen years before exposure and much yet to be exposed, although I've had it written for several years. His in two parts: the early part is in COUP and was edited out for Frame-Up. The second part is in The Unimpeachment of Richard Nixon.

When I wanted Jim to do some address tracings for me several years ago I showed him how to use standard directories for this purpose. In time it was when Woodstein failed to send me xeroxes of the DC city directory so I could show them how to find what they didn't want to find. Jim then did this for me at the library. He carried it further than I needed and by that established a whole string of these things. Even news agencies with the air proprietaries. In fact, a flack friend of mine, whether or not in the service, twice shared offices. By means of this directory examination I was able to correctly pinpoint the CIA's Washington Station and Hunt's offices there prior to his leaving the Agency's formal employ.

Marks refers to a handicraft proprietary, Joseph Z. Taylor. This reminded me of The Waif in N.O. Once she turned on and flashed a wallet full of charge cards. Many. She was then boasting. One was in the name of a small company dealing in art. It was her boast that she made money for "them." Ordinarily it would not have been easy for a 21-year old woman to have so many charge cards, less so in 1967 (when 20) and 1968, when I saw them in late June or early July. She then ticked off the names of other of "our" outfits in science and petrochemical "research." She also took me to an isolated warehouse area in Jefferson Parish where the building were largely or entirely unmarked. I have pix somewhere. "Ours," she said, perhaps fabricating, at which she was proficient.

But I do have trouble believing that without some help she could have acquired all those charge cards and in the names of businesses when clearly she hadn't the money for any.

Reminds me also of John Christian, whose RFK book with Turner is due soon. At first I took him at Harv Morgan's value, straight. But when he took from Hal Verb the p.r. Hal used to do so well for me and then arranged for nothing (Hal then improvised enough), what he did do made me apprehensive. The place in which he put me up. His changing of a press release I drafted told me he had no real news experience as he claimed. He chimed in with what I would not say at a press conference and I had to silence him. I'll never forget the look in his eyes, not the rest of his expression. He took me to two middle-aged Ivy League lawyer types who had that typical look. He got and refused to return or pay for 5,000 copies of O in NO. And the ms, still not returned. He performed on nothing and kept me tied up for a while. Even tried to set me up for a fall with Sam Banks on KGO-TV news. Oh, well....

HW