

CIA in the LAPD???

SUE MARSHALL

A CIA penetration agent?

This was the description, conjuring up images of poisoned darts and sado-masochistic enzyme cleaners, which playwright Don Freed and attorney Luke McKissack used to describe James Jarrett, late of the LAPD and presently stationed in Israel by the Central Intelligence Agency, ostensibly to act as a saboteur. (Jarrett has worked in this capacity overseas prior to this case.)

If it wasn't for the zealous efforts of ten officers of the Los Angeles Police Department in trying to secure a conviction against Freed and actress Shirley Sutherland, the fact might never have been revealed that Jarrett (and possibly other LAPD cops) could act as a CIA agent while on the city payroll.

The Sutherland-Freed case has proved a great embarrassment to the police department and U.S. attorney's office. From Oct. 2, 1969, when Jarrett tried to entrap Freed and Sutherland by planting on Don Freed hand grenades which he had personally stolen from the San Diego Naval Armory, to December, when ten LAPD willingly complied in breaking into the home of a private investigator for the defense to steal tape recordings and papers, the actions of the police have been concretely illegal.

"I almost could say that the LAPD probably wasn't aware that Jarrett was a CIA man," Freed commented to the Free Press. "Maybe that's being naive. Jarrett has been a 'hit' man—the leader of political assassination teams—in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. He had worked for the CIA in Latin America. He had come to the LA police to help train the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) squad, which was responsible for the raid on the Black Panther Party headquarters last December."

Even when Jarrett was working within the group called Friends of the Panthers (now known as Liberation Union) as an infiltrator—even before he was proven to be a cop of any kind—he was recognized to be an individual with serious mental problems.

"Jarrett talked freely about atrocities he had committed in Vietnam and his current life as a cat burglar and gun-runner," recalled Don Freed.

"His acting-out personality was plain. To use the psychological vocabulary, he has a allo-plastic personality. Here is a man who was emotionally battle-scarred in Vietnam, and his sickness has been

channelled for the use of the CIA.

"Jarrett acts out with his body an inner world of sado-masochistic adventures which fit exactly the patter he has been programmed to follow. This is the logical step beyond drafting and brainwashing someone in the army. Jarrett is a victim, too, and his very existence demands an explanation. There are thousands of men like him returning from the battlefields; beneath their clean-cut blonde exterior they are walking schizophrenics—and monsters.

"When Jarrett was in Friends of the Panthers, I maintained that he was sick and should not be rejected. Jarrett ran tight, effective self-defense and first aid classes. He was skilled and patient and revealed a helpful, friendly side in direct contrast to his usual provocative behavior."

In September, one of the young women belonging to the Friends was raped by reactionary Cubans. Jarrett suggested that mace be obtained for the women to carry for self-defense. Freed agreed.

On Oct. 2, the day before Freed was scheduled to go to New York to supervise the Broadway opening of his play, "Inquest; the United States vs. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," Jarrett delivered a brown cardboard box which was supposed to contain mace to Freed's home at 4:15 a.m. About 4:30, detectives arrived simultaneously at two homes, to hold guns to the head of Don and Barbara Freed, Shirley Sutherland and her three young children. Don Freed Shirley Sutherland were arrested for possession of hand grenades,

and held on \$25,000 bond to face a ten-year prison sentence.

When the case came to trial Judge Warren J. Ferguson of the United States Federal Court dropped all charges in view of the obvious entrapment. The U.S. Attorney, however, in an unprecedented move, appealed the judge's decision!

But even more colorful things were to come.

Luke McKissack, chief Southern California counsel for the Black Panther Party, had been retained by Freed and Sutherland for their defense. In many of his celebrated cases, such as the Sirhan Sirhan defense, McKissack has retained the services of private investigator Mike McCowan.

McCowan comes uncomfortably close to the mod-squad stereotype of what a "private dick" should be. He is a licensed private investigator, a lawyer, a ladies' man, and a Gemini. Being a ten-year veteran of the police department himself, McCowan accepted the fact that one of his assistants, Sam Bluth, was a former LAPD officer who had been canned from the force for minor infractions.

Apparently, Sam Bluth dug being a cop to the extent that he would break the law to get back in.

According to a Memorandum of Fact submitted to the court by the U.S. Attorney's office, the following facts came to light while Sutherland and Freed were awaiting trial.

On Dec. 10, 1969, Sam Bluth visited the Venice Police Department and conferred with a Lt. Hegge. The content of their conversation (this is from the U.S. Attorney, remember) was a meeting that Bluth had observed where Don Freed and Shirley Sutherland had discussed James Jarrett.

Lt. Hegge sent Sam Bluth to the glass house downtown where he laid his scene on Inspector McCalley, Lt. Loomis of the Internal Affairs Division and Sgt. Sandlin and Officer Vincent Kelly of the Intelligence Department. Bluth produced tapes containing recorded conversations between the defendants and investigator McCowan. The police made copies of these tapes. Later that day, Sgt. George Arnold and Sgt. Jack Gutterding listened to the three hours of tape Bluth had provided.

The next day, Arnold and Gutterding followed Bluth to Mike McCowan's apartment, in the hope of finding more information. Bluth broke in, and returned in 20 minutes with no further information.

On Dec. 15, three days later, Jarrett, Officer Russell Meltzer and Sgt. Arnold listened to McCowan's tapes. Meltzer and Arnold had supervised Jarrett's work in LAPD capacity when the hand grenades were delivered to Don Freed in October, and these three policemen served as prosecution witnesses.

On Dec. 31, Bluth supplied Arnold and Gutterding with several hours more of stolen tapes.

On Jan. 5, Bluth met with Sgt. Dyer of the LAPD Intelligence Department and gave him a 15-20 page transcript with more information regarding the Sutherland-Freed defense.

In March, Mike McCowan, Luke McKissack, Don Freed and Shirley Sutherland submitted simultaneous lawsuits against the City of Los Angeles in an amount totalling one million dollars. They are charging the police department with Theft of Property, Invasion of Privacy, Interference with Business Relation, and Abridgement of Constitutional and Civil Rights.

In the suit, the four defendants charge that Sam Bluth and the ten police officers "entered into a scheme...to knowing and intentionally steal...and aid and abet the theft of claimants' property, work product, and confidential information relating to the (Sutherland-Freed) defense...defraud (the claimants) and to pervert and obstruct justice..."

In all, nearly 20 specific violations of the Penal Code are alleged in the suit.

Luke McKissack and Mike McCowan have actively demanded that the U.S. Attorney's office seek indictment against the ten policemen



CIA agent James Jarrett (center) flanked by LAPD cohorts.

Photo by Gilbert Weingourt

named in the suit at the time it was filed last March, but the U.S. Attorney's office has so far failed to respond.

"I consider this case sort of a reverse of the Friar's Club case," remarked Mike McCowan. "In that instance, the attorneys and defendants were indicted under an archaic rule that says attorneys can't have copies of a Grand Jury transcript. Here we have specific evidence of a crime committed on behalf of the prosecution, and Buck Compton and Matt Byrne (U.S. Attorney's office) have done nothing to these individuals who disclosed

the entire case for the defense, I think it's shocking."

"What this case spotlights is one of the major problems of this society," stated attorney McKisack. "The police are too busy enforcing laws against others to let themselves be governed by these same laws.

"Here we have an open and shut case of numerous grave and felonious offenses committed by these ten police officers—and some of them are from the higher echelons of the LAPD. One would think that the relevant processing agency, the U.S. Attorney and the LA Dis-

trict Attorney, would take action, as they undoubtedly would against John Doe Citizen were he to precipitate the same crime.

"The police, of course, by virtue of their fraternization with this prosecuting agency, are immune to retribution for their infractions.

"What does one do when you have an uncontested expose of crimes by law enforcement officers and NO ONE WILL TAKE ACTION? Police who seek to flaunt the very laws they ostensibly cherish will undoubtedly gain solace from the Freed-Sutherland debacle."