

Secret Heroes in CIA Go Unsung

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Locked in the Central Intelligence Agency's vaults is another side to the CIA story, which probably will never be told.

The story can be found in the thick, top-secret transcripts of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which watches over the CIA.

CIA officials were subjected to intensive questioning, which sometimes lasted a full day. This brought a great many reforms, which the civilian board pressed upon the CIA.

A former chairman, Clark Clifford, told us he was convinced from the sessions that the CIA not only is an effective but an essential organization.

In the nuclear age, he said, the CIA has become our first line of defense. If some agents have been fools, he said, others have been unsung heroes whose deeds surpass the most valorous in our history yet must remain unrecorded.

"The CIA has had some dramatic successes," he said. "But the successes must remain concealed or they no longer will be successes."

He singled out for praise undercover men who have been caught and have been subjected to skillfully cruel torture, yet have resisted with uncommon bravery the effort to extract information from them.

Of course, the CIA has also

had its blunders. The blunder of all blunders was the Bay of Pigs invasion. President Kennedy declared afterward that he "wanted to splinter the CIA in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."

When he cooled down, Kennedy called in Clark Clifford, who had helped to draft the legislation establishing the CIA. Clifford told us he remembers the late President's words vividly.

"I made some bad decisions on the Bay of Pigs," said Kennedy. "I made these bad decisions because I had bad information. My information was bad, because our intelligence was poor. Something is gravely wrong inside the CIA, and I intend to find out what it is. I cannot afford another Bay of Pigs."

President Kennedy often attended the civilian advisory board's secret sessions and helped to fashion the reforms that were imposed upon the CIA.

Footnote: Our CIA sources say the advisory board lost some of its clout after Kennedy's assassination.

Strange Modesty—The Interior Department may be the only agency in Washington which doesn't like to crow about its successes.

For well over a year, the department's Fish and Wildlife Service has been cracking down on miscreants who seek pleasure or profit from killing, selling and trading endangered animals.

Teams of special agents, lawyers and intelligence experts, some of them working undercover, have zeroed in on the traffickers in animals. Scores of hunters, guides and dealers have been arrested, and millions of dollars worth of illegal animal products have been seized.

Some cases have been publicized. Interior, for example, has not hesitated to issue press releases about alligator poachers, Indians caught selling eagle feathers, or sheep ranchers convicted for shooting golden eagles from airplanes.

When the guilty party turns out to be a "Mr. Big," however, Interior remains mysteriously mute.

Last September, for example, the Justice Department successfully prosecuted George F. Gamble, the 36-year-old heir to the Procter & Gamble soap fortune.

He had been arrested by Fish and Wildlife agents for transporting across state lines the head of a Rocky Mountain big-horn sheep, which was killed in Yellowstone National Park.

The soap tycoon, who is also a California rancher with a degree in animal husbandry, was convicted, too, of illegally transporting parts of a trophy elk, which was shot on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Peckham threw the book at Gamble. He was fined \$10,500, was instructed not to hunt big game anywhere in the world for

the next three years, and was ordered to volunteer one day a week to a conservation cause. The case is now under appeal.

The Gamble conviction, in other words, was perhaps the Fish and Wildlife Service's most spectacular success. Yet despite the endless flow of press trivia from the Interior Department's public information office, not a single word was put out about it.

In a similar case last year, the world-famous ornithologist and director of the Yale University Peabody Museum, Dr. Charles G. Sibley, paid a fine of \$3,000 for importing rare bird eggs in violation of the wildlife laws.

Again, the Interior Department maintained a curious silence. The public found out about it only after Sports Illustrated magazine dug out the facts.

Spokesmen for the Interior Department say they don't issue press releases on criminal convictions, because the cases are frequently appealed. Yet announcements have been made of the arrests and convictions in other cases involving people of little renown. The Sibley fine, for that matter, came in a civil case.

Footnote: We were unable to reach George Gamble for comment. His attorney, James Martin MacInnis, did not return our calls.