

# Press Clips

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by Alexander Cockburn

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THOSE PRESENT at a recent seminar of investigative journalism at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. heard Jack Anderson make some admissions. When he took over from Drew Pearson, Anderson said, he did a deal with Hoover. So long as his column did not dump on Hoover, he would be able to request FBI file data on people of interest to him. These would be delivered on plain sheets of paper. If he wished to see the actual files he could do so at the FBI headquarters in the presence of his contact man there. Anderson also said that he initially had the same sort of arrangement with Nixon's people at the White House. A high aide (one might conjecture, Haldeman) would make damaging data available to him, such as the IRS audits on George Wallace's brother, with which the Anderson column made great play. This restriction did not last much longer than a month or two.

Anderson says the arrangement soon broke down when he began leaking material hostile to Nixon. He then incurred the attention of the plumbers. According to Seymour Hersh the plumbers were "all over" Anderson and his associates. But Hersh had no mention of this in his long and terrifying articles in the New York Times last week. I asked Hersh, at that time an associate of Anderson, what he thought about this. Hersh said there had been no evidence of break-ins or even of tapes. "My guess," he said, "is that they were afraid to try in case the wires got back to Anderson through White House contacts." Who can tell? Maybe Anderson's famous blunder about Eagleton's drinking habits was a White House ploy to make him look foolish.

**DIRECTORS OF THE CIA** fear assassination or physical molestation, not by agents of a foreign power but at the hands of their own underlings. Furthermore they fear it even inside headquarters at Fort Langley, Virginia. This surprising news is revealed in an article by Juan Cameron in this month's issue of Fortune.

Cameron, the Fortune bureau chief in Washington, is profiling the personality and policies of James Schlesinger, now Secretary of Defense, who recently as last January, it will be recalled, Schlesinger was made head of CIA in place of inveterate Nixon-hater Richard Helms, who was fired. Schlesinger immediately purged 1000 of the CIA's estimated 12000 employees, most of them from the old guard loyal to Helms. "An odd feeling," Cameron remarks, "animosity toward Schlesinger grew so strong that his personal bodyguard was increased to prevent any violent confrontations with disgruntled agency employees."

What was in Fort Langley? I asked Cameron. "Well," he answered, "historically, those old guard types were pretty wild." "What old guard types?" "You know, the Harvard and Yale men who came out of the war. Many of them had probably killed people in the course of their lives. Also, they had people like Hunt and McCord around." How heavily is the director guarded? According to Cameron you have to run through a guardroom to get to the director's office. Also Schlesinger not only had the usual armed driver but an extra bodyguard. His house was guarded too.

It is thought that Colby, the present director and former anti-communism man, has less to fear from his subordinates than Schlesinger, who was regarded as Nixon's agent. Cameron added that there is speculation that Schlesinger's portrait, which now hangs alongside the other ex-directors in the main corridor, may be started or at least an identifying label affixed to its neck.

**STORIES ABOUT KISSINGER** flowed freely during his European visit. Sam White, the London Evening Standard's famous correspondent in Paris, reported in his column that "an old friend of Kissinger's

that the other day he had great difficulty in getting through by phone to Dr. Kissinger. Finally he complained to one of the Secret Servicemen in charge of Kissinger's switchboard. He was told that the switchboard operators were reluctant to put any calls through because only the previous day Kissinger had bawled the switchboard out for putting Nixon through to him twice."

**SOMEWHERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE**, in the higher reaches of the executive branch is a copy of Nixon's and his co-conspirators who were by the code name of Deep Throat. That fellow has been the source for many of Woodward and Bernstein's main disclosures. So closely guarded is his true identity that it is known only to Bob Woodward. Knowing what Woodward furthest, he was in constant "fear of his life" that his cover would be blown. Woodward and Bernstein mention him in their now-completed book "All the President's Men," which will be out in May.

They also say they were the first to hear about Butterfield and the tapes. Fugh Sloan, Haldeman's aide, mentioned it to them, but Post editor Ben Bradlee did not think the story rated more than "a beta plus." They passed the story on to Sam Dash, chief counsel on the Watergate Committee. Dash dithered so then they told Dash's assistant counsel Terry Lenzner about it. Lenzner then subpoenaed Butterfield who blurted out the whole story about the tape system.

**REMEMBER NORMA LEVY?** She was the call-girl who enjoyed the embraces and payments of Lord Lambton, a British cabinet minister. Lambton resigned last summer because of the scandal. It now seems that Norma was always ready to do her bit for Anglo-American relations. In her book "I, Norma Levy" just published in Britain, she says that among her overseas customers were Robert Vesco and Donald Nixon, Richard's nephew, who is still in Vesco's employ.