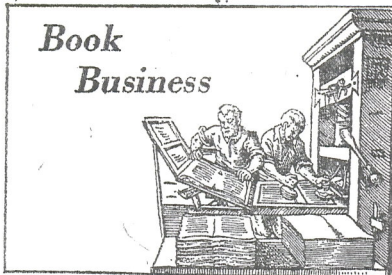


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## Book Business



By JOYCE ILLIG

### *Cloak and Arrow*

A CONTROVERSIAL new book just published in England, *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, by Philip Agee, will be published here in May by Straight Arrow Books, the San Francisco publishing house that is a division of Rolling Stone.

The manuscript was offered to many large publishing houses before Straight Arrow became involved but, according to Straight Arrow's managing editor, Diane Cleaver, there was some hesitation because of all the trouble Knopf had over Victor Marchetti's book, *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*. After a prolonged court battle, Knopf was ordered to delete some sections of Marchetti's book.

Straight Arrow feels safe in going ahead with publication, Cleaver said, because the British publisher and prime contractor, Penguin, will have 10,000 copies in Canada in February. "If the book's available in Canada, it's rather silly to think that it wouldn't be available here," she said. The 480-page American edition will be priced at \$10.

Agee joined the CIA in the late 1950s after being recruited at the University of Notre Dame, where he went to college. He was an agent in Ecuador, Uruguay and Mexico before resigning in the late '60s and is now living in England.

"The book is really quite amazing," according to Cleaver; "because it does give the day-by-day operations of the CIA in a way that hasn't been done before. Agee names a lot of names, and in that sense it's a very sensational book. Many of the names aren't familiar to us but it mentions some American corporations and individuals who are involved with the CIA. There are appendices in the book which list everyone involved and it's quite extensive."

Straight Arrow arranged for the American rights after Jann Wener, owner of the Rolling Stone Corporation, mentioned the book to Alan Rinzler, then the president of Straight Arrow and now a consulting editor. At the end of last summer, Rinzler was in London and made an agreement with Penguin. "It wasn't brought to us," said Cleaver. "We went after it."

JOYCE ILLIG writes regularly on the publishing scene for Book World.

### *Speak for Yourself, John*

JOHN DEAN'S on-again off-again Watergate book is on again, and negotiations are under way this weekend in Beverly Hills. Marc Jaffe, senior vice president and editorial director at Bantam and Richard Snyder, executive vice president at Simon & Schuster, are meeting with Dean and David Obst, his agent, over a book proposal that's described as "fantastic."

An informed publishing source said that there will be "stuff that's never come out before," and that the book is "somewhat similar to the original book" that was planned over a year and a half ago "except that now it's much expanded." Dean has more material from the trial, his imprisonment and his work with the prosecutors.

Dean's first deal for a Watergate book was killed at the request of the special prosecutor, according to the source, and all money was returned by Dean from a \$235,000 advance that originated with Bantam and included Farrar, Straus & Giroux for the hardcover edition. Shortly after that deal was suppressed last January, Bantam signed Dean up for a book of essays and a novel. When this new book contract is sealed, Bantam may need a separate sales corps to handle Dean's list.

*Mo*, Maureen Dean's book for Bantam, has reportedly passed the halfway point, with the aid of a Time magazine Washington correspondent, Hays Gorey. (*Mo*, the tentative title, is Maureen's nickname.)

An early reader described the material thus far as "sexy, honest and personal," and said that not only is it "a love story between her and John" but an account of Maureen's pre-Dean days when she worked on the Hill. "She's writing about her affairs with various Washington people before she was married. She names names but it's not going to be a scandal book because she doesn't have a scandalous life."

### *Would Chuck?*

CHARLES COLSON is close to having his Watergate book picked up for publication. Harold Matson, his literary agent, and Kenneth Adams, his lawyer, are conducting negotiations for what one publishing insider calls "a pretty damn good book."

Colson, former special counsel to President Nixon, began serving a one-to-three-year prison term on July 9 for conspiring to obstruct justice.

### *The Wit and the Watergate*

JIMMY BRESLIN has just delivered a 50,000-word manuscript—centered around the summer's impeachment hearings—for publication in April by Viking.

The book is about "how the bureaucracy can kill you," Breslin said in a telephone interview.

"Once they start typing and filing things on you, there's no way to stop it." He said that he had spent most of his time around Tip O'Neill, John Doar and Peter Rodino while gathering material for the book and that he "sat in O'Neill's office from June through August."

Breslin said that when he decided to do a Watergate book, "I was halfway through a novel that's going to get me rich but I knew that I was going to spend the summer watching television. So I thought that if I'm going to watch television, I might as well come down and get paid for it."

What, besides the author's hard-punching wit, makes this book different from all other Watergate books? "It'll be the only nonpretentious thing to come out of this stuff," said Breslin, "and it'll be written in English, so that'll give me two strikes over everyone else in the game. Everyone else is going to write big, ponderous, highly pretentious stuff with the worst f—prose known to man. People in Washington don't write English. They write off-English."

Breslin's explanation of off-English: "They use words that they'd never heard of and neither did anyone else in the street. You come into an area where people live, like Ozone Park, Queens, New York City, and ask them what the word 'input' means. It means put it in. There's another one—co-opted? That's when your eyes hurt; you go to that guy and he co-opts you, right?"

"I read the nice woman who wrote the four-part piece in *The New Yorker*, Elizabeth Drew. Lovely woman, lovely woman. Unintelligible! The copy: I couldn't read a line of it."

### *A Prosecutor Sums Up*

SIMON & SCHUSTER has had a long-time agreement with 31-year-old Richard Ben-Veniste, the Assistant Special Prosecutor in the Watergate cover-up trial, for a book about his experiences from the beginning of his involvement with the special Watergate prosecutor's staff under Archibald Cox to the end of his Watergate-related work for the Justice Department. The contract was signed on January 10 but no part of the advance will be paid until Ben-Veniste leaves the Justice Department.

Jonathan Dolger, his editor at Simon & Schuster, expects that Ben-Veniste's work on the book will begin after the appeal—scheduled to be held at the beginning of February. Ben-Veniste was among the original 38 lawyers that Cox had recruited when the special Watergate prosecution force was created in May 1973. His assignment was the cover-up.

Dolger said that the book will "tell what all of this was like from the inside" and thinks it will be an interesting approach because Ben-Veniste is "a very wry, smart, feisty character."