

WXPost JAN 17 1976
Daniel Schorr Replies

If Tom Braden, who benefited from his involvement in clandestine financing to pioneer the "inside CIA" magazine expose, can now write about the crowded magazine racks and the "lust for self-torture," that is piquant, but his business.

If Braden, with Richard Helms, Nelson Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger, as friends and sometime patrons, wishes to vaunt the sureness of his first-hand knowledge over journalists who stumble around outside, that is odd, but likewise his business.

My business is to ask of him a little of the factual accuracy—in this case much easier to come by—that he solicits for the intelligence community.

In his column (Washington Post Jan. 10)* he is twice inaccurate when he writes that I "revealed," with Col. Fletcher Prouty as my "source," that Alexander Butterfield "had all along been a CIA agent."

1. It was not stated that Butterfield had been an "agent," but the CIA's "contact" in the White House, a distinction that an old CIA hand will surely understand.

2. It was not I who "revealed" it. It was Col. Prouty who stated it during a live interview on the CBS Morning News, also in an NBC interview filmed the night before, also to the press at large after interrogation later in the day by the House Intelligence Committee staff.

Further, having been unable to reach Butterfield, we reported his wife's denial before our broadcast had concluded.

Further, Butterfield's own denial was broadcast to a much larger audience two days later on the CBS "Sixty Minutes" program, which I then excerpted for the CBS Sunday Night News.

Further, Howard Hunt, whom Prouty had cited as his source, was sought out in prison by CBS News, his filmed denial broadcast on the CBS Evening News, along with Prouty's modification of position when confronted with the categorical denials.

If Braden concludes that "the Prouty story turned out to be a lie," he is probably relying on our persistent work in checking the allegation of a former Air Force officer who, after all, had confirmed credentials as a Pentagon-CIA liaison officer, and who had previously given CBS News an unchallenged interview about his part in CIA plots against Castro.

Even now my world is less certain than Braden's seems to be. I have only concluded that Prouty's claims are so far unsupported by any evidence available, and are disputed by all those involved. I wish I knew things for sure, the way Braden does.

Daniel Schorr
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Washington

* NOT REED

See WXP 24 Jan 76, Tom Braden

WXP 29 Jan 76, letter by
Thomas F. McCoy