

## The Continuing Inquiry, Volume 2, Number 6, January 22, 1978

## THE "EASTERN ESTABLISHMENT" AND THE POWER OF PROPAGANDA: SOME RECENT HISTORY

by Christopher Sharrett

## To Know the Adversary

The recent attacks on the House Assassinations Committee by the news media and by various components of the power structure have caused a number of researchers to deal once again with the most plaguing questions concerning the forces behind the conspiracies and cover-ups of the past two decades, specifically, what is the real nature of the Invisible Government? What are the objectives of the cover-ups? What are the stakes involved? Why were all these murders perpetrated? Many authors and researchers have provided solid answers on some aspects of the crimes, such as the involvement of the executive agencies, the aim of controlling U.S. policies, etc., but the dimensions of the power structure have yet to be defined in a concise manner, if such a definition is yet possible.

For many years the notion of President Eisenhower's "Military-Industrial Complex" (MIC) was the catchall concept for all forms of clandestinism in the U.S. and the world. Although Ike, with a life-time in government, certainly had sharp instincts and perceptions, the notion of the MIC is ill-defined and has come to be misleading for a variety of reasons. At the other end of the spectrum is the view of the New Left that the "system" is responsible for the conspiracies. This term is equally vague in that its users often rely on rhetoric rather than a careful examination of the power structure and how it operates; by simply blaming the economic "system" it is easy for the opposition to sidetrack investigations, to have us placing the blame on everyone or no one. However cogent reviews of capitalism may be, they often take on an anti-humanist point of view, denying the importance or responsibility of individuals of either side; as in the rock song by the Rolling Stones, we are asked to believe "you and me" killed the Kennedys.

Richard E. Sprague has invented the term Power-Control Group (PCG) to be applied to those individuals and organizations who actively, knowingly participated in conspiracies and cover-ups. This broad, comprehensive term may put us on the right track in removing biases and blinders from us in our pursuit and recognition of the opposition forces. It will be the purpose of this brief, essentially heuristic article to explore the meaning of "PCG" and, finally, to underscore the notion of Vincent Salandria, Richard Sprague, this writer and a number of others that the real power behind the assassinations resides in an apparent yet often unscrutinized place; the Eastern Establishment and "liberalism."

## Not an Ideological Struggle

It is a mistake for us to continue to regard the quest for truth in the assassination inquiries as an ideological struggle, a conflict of "left" and "right" simply because at this point there is ample evidence that the core of what we must call the PCG - the Eastern Establishment - is essentially pragmatic and non-ideological. The heirs of Rockefeller and Morgan, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Dulleses, et al., have become famous for their compromises with both fascism and communism and for the peddling of ersatz socialism; after all, we have been taught to accept the Eastern Establishment as the bastion of what is "liberal".<sup>1</sup> It has been an easy temptation to assume that strange factions of an extreme rightist bent were responsible for the deaths of the Kennedys, King and others, but when we see that the basic ideology of our government, of our foreign policy establishment, has changed very little in the past thirty-five years this view is patently obsolete. While there are certainly warring factions within the intelligence community and the power elite, it is doubtful that the war is over politics in the more popular sense of that term, or even over the question of finance as an end in itself; rather, the goal of the PCG is centered primarily on

the consolidation of power thru the ideas of a simpatico cluster of men working on a supranational basis and interested in the "planning" of the future for this and other nations. The proof of this is the basic thought of the men who have guided the body politic for the past several generations, men who have become increasingly sophisticated in their ideas regarding the manipulation of humanity.<sup>2</sup>

#### An Amorphous Whole: The News Media and its Examples of Deceit

While it is important to be discriminating and precise in an examination of the power structure, it is necessary, particularly at this juncture, to dismiss a few myths about the nature of our society, especially the notion of the "adversary" relationship of the media vis-a-vis the government. For example, CBS News must be seen as an invention of the Council on Foreign Relations and Wall St. in the same sense as the CIA and the National Security Council are inventions. An examination of the roster and meetings of the CFR over the past thirty years reveals the names Paley, Salant, Sarnoff, Bancroft and even Edward R. Murrow along with the familiar names of Dulles, Bundy and McCloy. Constantly we are offered stories of the news media's "prior" involvement with the CIA (stories perhaps meant to demoralize us further) as if the problem is one of misdeeds by individual reporters acting as "agents" for outside interests; the real issue is the complete compatibility of the news media interests with those of the intelligence community. In fact, it is perfectly reasonable to state that CBS and kindred organizations are simply the information arm of these intelligence organizations.<sup>3</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

1. For a superior study of the Eastern Establishment's origins see Carroll Quigley, Tragedy and Hope, Macmillan, 1966.
2. See, for example, George Ball's Diplomacy in an Overcrowded World and Zbigniew Brzezinski's Between Two Ages: America's Role in the Technetronic Era, along with numerous recent articles by Ball, Brzezinski, Paul Nitze, McGeorge and William Bundy, et al. in Foreign Affairs and Foreign Policy journals.
3. Charles B. Seib, "CIA's Media Connection", Washington Post, June 4, 1977, p.A11  
Cf. Richard E. Sprague, "The American News Media and the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Accessories After the Fact", Computers and Automation, June-July 1973

(To be continued in next issue)

For years we criticized Dallas billionaire H. L. Hunt, we called him "Big Daddy Hunt."

With the disclosure of Hunt's bigamous life, turns out he was worse than we suspected. We are not in as embarrassing position as his right-wing pastor, Dr. W. A. Criswell who was constantly praising the billionaire. Criswell may have to contact God and apologize for many of the good things he said about his parishioner.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just at the end of President Carter's off again on again trip to nine countries in nine days (one country got only forty minutes, and Mrs. Carter probably thinks some countries should not have been on the schedule at all) we learn the real purpose of the entire trip. That stop at NATO Headquarters and the assurance of more military spending was the key to the trip.

Candidate Carter repeatedly promised to cut military spending. A hasty stop at Omaha Beach and the Cemetery has now convinced the President that he was all wrong during his long campaign.

We are going to have a long rough ride under this military man disguised as a peanut farmer.

## THE "EASTERN ESTABLISHMENT" AND THE POWER OF PROPAGANDA: SOME RECENT HISTORY

(Continued from last issue)

by Christopher Sharrett

The Washington Post and its "Crusades"

An outstanding example of the Eastern Establishment's control of cover-ups through the media is seen in the performance of the Washington Post over the past several years. The Post "broke" the Watergate story through the articles by Woodward and Bernstein, but more recent investigations have shown that many of the Post stories, if not the entire Watergate scenario, were actually provided to the Post by the CIA.<sup>4</sup> A number of articles by independent researchers preceded the Woodward-Bernstein articles and were much more insightful, but were totally ignored by the media.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the Post along with the New York Times and other major news outlets focused the Watergate investigation entirely on Nixon and his friends while the intelligence community went on relatively unnoticed, even though the Bernstein-Woodward account itself actually states (according to the informant "Deep Throat" \*) that "the covert activities involve the entire U.S. intelligence community."<sup>6</sup> The fact that many such startling remarks went unanalyzed by the Post has since brought the role of Editor Ben Bradlee into question; at least one researcher identifies Bradlee as a CIA tool before Watergate took place.<sup>7</sup> What is not generally questioned is the stance of Katherine Graham, thought by many to be the only honest voice on the Post.<sup>8</sup> Aside from her remarks that the CIA/FBI investigations were "going overboard"<sup>8</sup> it is interesting to examine Mrs. Graham's recent activities (or lack of activity) along with her origins and those of the Post itself, at least insofar as the Post has covered the turbulent events of recent history.

From her powerful position as publisher of the Post Mrs. Graham is certainly aware of the derisive stories written by George Lardner on the Assassinations Committee; she must also be aware that Lardner has been writing similar derisive pieces on assassination research since the Garrison probe, when he was involved in a stange incident surrounding the death of David Ferrie, a key Garrison suspect.<sup>9</sup> Although Mrs. Graham has been appealed to by many interested researchers, the Lardner stories continue. More important, when Rep. Walter Fauntroy stated his concern over CIA influence in the media, his remarks were met with a snide, mocking editorial by the Post.<sup>10</sup> Perhaps the simplest answer here is that Mrs. Graham is the daughter of Eugene Meyer III, head of Lazard Freres, a principal investment bank of the Rockefeller financial group and for the Post. To say that the Washington Post is a component of the Eastern Establishment is an understatement.

Jack Anderson

The principal reason for investigating the news media is to understand the motive of the Eastern Establishment in its cover-ups of the assassinations, the area where Eastern participation in the crimes is most transparent. A number of popular columnists for the major newspapers have been guiding our opinions on the assassinations and have altered their tactics somewhat as the level of public sophistication has changed. A case in point is Jack Anderson, one of the most respected investigatory journalists in the nation, who has persisted over the years

---

\* Various writers have pointed to the distinct possibility that Robert Bennett, head of the Mullen Agency (a CIA front) and an executive for the Hughes organization, was Deep Throat. Testimony before the House reveals that Bennett gave at least some stories to Woodward with the promise of protection, but the question of why the information was offered was never asked in detail. Studies of Bennett are contained in the source material at the end of the article.

in his belief in the lone-assassin myth. A few years ago, when it became obvious to the overwhelming majority of the population that the Warren Report was nonsense, Anderson assisted the notion that Fidel Castro planned Kennedy's murder in "retaliation" for plans on his own life. With the adoption of this story by the TV networks, the newsmagazines and the papers, the public soon became aware that the Castro-did-it story was the second line of defense for officialdom. To the surprise of many, Jack Anderson began writing stories this year concerning Oswald's ties to the CIA and to anti-Castro Cuban exiles, suggesting that the CIA/FBI aided a cover-up. This action caused Bob Katz to remark that Anderson seemed to be making a "turnaround" in his thinking on the assassination.<sup>11</sup> To find out the extent of the "turnaround" Richard E. Sprague decided to contact Anderson's office.

In April of this year Dick was able to contact Les Whitten, Anderson's partner.<sup>12</sup> After a conversation Dick presented Whitten with a copy of his book The Taking of America 1, 2, 3; Whitten accepted the book with some interest and promised to get back to Dick. A few weeks later Dick phoned Whitten's office to find out what he and Anderson had to say about his book, the state of the House Committee, etc. Whitten proceeded to insult Dick along with every other researcher; he said he and Anderson believed the lone-nut thesis in all the major assassinations and considered the the researchers to be fools.\*\* The question then arises why Anderson is writing supposedly anti-CIA stories regarding the JFK assassination. The answer may be that the stories are a combination of placebo and sensationalism to placate the less knowledgeable sector of a doubting public. The conclusion is underlined by more recent articles by Anderson supporting the CIA and clandestinitism, along with new stories stating that Castro planned the murder of Nixon following the death of Kennedy. A more concrete basis for our attitude toward Anderson rests in work by one researcher who outlines the columnist's CIA connections over a number of years.<sup>13</sup>

#### The Pentagon Papers, the Assassinations and the Rewriting of History

Eisenhower's Military-Industrial Complex, blamed by many researchers for the assassinations, has been conceived of as a cabal composed of right-wing extremists and independent billionaires (such as Howard Hughes and H. L. Hunt) working in conjunction with elements of the Pentagon and the intelligence community. While this situation no doubt exists--Hughes, for example, was a key CIA contractor--it overlooks the essential underpinnings of the U.S. foreign policy establishment.

For over thirty years our State Department and adjacent agencies have been dominated consistently by Wall St. lawyers, specifically, legal representatives for the Rockefeller-Morgan financial groups along with members of the round-table organizations manufactured by the finance capitalists of the East (along with those of Britain and France); the round-table organizations include the Council on Foreign Relations, the Bilderberg Society, and, more recently, the Trilateral Commission, the Rockefeller-inspired institution which backed Jimmy Carter in his incredibly swift rise to national prominence and the White House.

Since the end of World War II the control over foreign policy by Eastern monetarists has been especially noticeable. The names John Foster and Allen Dulles, Christian Herter, Dean Rusk, Henry Kissinger, George Ball, McGeorge Bundy, Clark Clifford, Cyrus Vance and others form a continuum of power uninterrupted regardless of the Democratic or Republican administrations elected by the public. The "open" administration of Jimmy Carter is a kind of encore for some of these men, such as Harold Brown, Cyrus Vance and Paul Warnke, along with new talent of the same basic mold with some dangerous new inflections: Zbigniew Brzezinski. Col. Fletcher Prouty has helped to define the nature of monetarist control most succinctly:

---

\*\* The one exception is Harold Weisberg, who has also established a relationship with George Lardner of the Washington Post.

Interviewer: How do the big industrialists make contact with the CIA?

Prouty: Well, let's take a look at the CIA. Allen Dulles came from the biggest law firm in the world, Sullivan and Cromwell, in New York. Now Sullivan and Cromwell has as its clients the biggest banks, the biggest businessmen in the world. The Dulles brothers, Allen and John Foster, worked in that environment and understood those people. Take John McCone, one of the biggest industrialists in the United States. He too was head of the CIA.<sup>14</sup>

Col. Prouty's interview, along with his excellent book,<sup>15</sup> have aided us in understanding now our perception of recent events has been distorted by attempts to rewrite history or to fill it with half-truths and hideous tales with ill-defined plots; our paranoia and cynicism have been nurtured but we have been unable to become politically mobilized due to our clouded knowledge of the facts, the specifics regarding the control of power in this country.

This revamping of history and manipulation of the public is made clear by Col. Prouty's analysis of the Pentagon Papers. On the face of it the Pentagon Papers were an incredible "revelation", restoring our faith in government as well as in the power of a free press. As Col. Prouty points out, however, the publication of the Papers by the New York Times was a very well orchestrated endeavor.<sup>16</sup> These were not materials taken en masse from the files of the Pentagon; rather they represented a study of the Vietnam War in the form of carefully edited volumes. What was released to the public by Daniel Ellsberg and the Times was a work which focused our attention almost totally on a series of Presidents and their advisors along with generals in the Pentagon. The role of the CIA in the decision making process behind the Vietnam War was overlooked, as was the background and motivation of the man behind the release of the Papers, Dr. Ellsberg. Little or no emphasis was placed on Ellsberg's work for the RAND Corporation and the Center for International Studies at M.I.T., two CIA and National Security Council-affiliated think-tanks; a similar light-brush treatment was given to the fact that virtually all of Dr. Ellsberg's colleagues throughout his career in government were CIA operatives and in some cases held loftier position in the Council on Foreign Relations (William Bundy).<sup>17</sup>

Since very few people would be interested in buying or reading the four-volume Senator Gravel edition of the Papers, Bantam Books, an affiliate of the New York Times, released a substantially abridged edition in paperback which spent so little time in analysis it was difficult to determine where the "shock value" of the Papers existed. The Tonkin Gulf episode, for example, was glossed over so as to omit the agent-provocateur significance of this incident. With the benefit of hindsight and the added knowledge of the past few years this edition of the Papers by the Times and Bantam Books seems especially wanting. Perhaps Allen Dulles's thinking about the Warren Report could be applied to the Pentagon Papers, that is that few people, if any would be interested in reading the actual substance of such material and would rely instead on the reviews and reportage of the media to understand the "significance" of such documents. When we consider the well-orchestrated publicity surrounding the release of both the Papers and the Warren Report, however, particularly when considering the role of the Eastern media in the release of these documents, such a thesis is not very tenable.

Certainly the New York Times did not believe that the average middle or lower-class worker would be interested in reading the Pentagon Papers since the arrogant journalism of the paper is hardly cognizant of the existence of such citizens. The Papers, like the Warren Report, were aimed primarily at intellectuals, political science students and that group most concerned about current events--it was precisely this group that had to be demoralized by this rewritten history. The CIA was exonerated from its roles in the JFK assassination and the Vietnam War despite the obvious interrelation of these events and President Kennedy's own words on the CIA, his threat to "scatter it to the winds" for its deception on the Bay of Pigs and its overall attempt to usurp the authority of the President and the State Department in matters of foreign policy.

While the majority of citizens would not be interested in the tedium of the Pentagon Papers they might be open to a "popularization" of the material in the Papers just as David Belin, Renshaw Hartogs and others presented the case of the Warren Report to a mass audience. In this instance the popular, quasi-official account of the Vietnam period is given by New York Times reporter David Halberstam, a close friend and associate of Daniel Ellsberg who blames Vietnam, like Watergate, on the machinations of avaricious, pathological personalities with no mention of the conspiratorial constructs in the very fabric of all these national traumas. Although Halberstam points out some rather overt changes in direction in Vietnam policy following President Kennedy's assassination, he ignores the evidence of conspiracy in this and subsequent political murders as he opts for the usual phenomenological, non-critical interpretation of the 1960's. Vietnam, Halberstam contends, was brought on by the neuroses of the Kennedys and their ilk, although finally the tragedy of Vietnam must be chalked up to another cruel fluke of history and fate.<sup>18</sup>

So Halberstam's book, combined with the Pentagon Papers, the Warren Report, the Post account of Watergate, the CIA "exposures" of the Rockefeller Commission and the Church Committee,<sup>19</sup> form a constellation of events designed (a) to demoralize the American populace, causing it to distrust conventional political institutions and (b) shift the blame for these political crimes to individuals and peculiar aberrations within institutions instead of on the institutions themselves.

## FOOTNOTES

4. Howard Kohn, "Strange Bedfellows: the Hughes-Nixon-Lansky Connection", Rolling Stone, May 20, 1976  
Norman Mailer, "A Harlot High and Low: Reconnoitering Through the Secret Government", New York, August 16, 1976  
Larry DuBois and Laurence Gonzalez, "The Puppets and the Puppetmasters," Playboy, Sept., 1976
5. Sprague, "The June 1972 Raid on Democratic Party Headquarters," Computers and Automation, August 1972  
"President Richard M. Nixon, the Bay of Pigs and the Watergate Incident," Computers and Automation, Jan., 1973  
Also see various articles by Mae Brussell in The Realist circa. 1972-1973.
6. Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, All the President's Men, Simon and Shuster, N.Y., 1974; Warner Paperback Library, N.Y., 1975, pp. 347-348.  
Analysis of "Deep Throat" are contained in the articles by Kohn, Mailer and DuBois and Gonzalez. Documentation concerning Robert Bennett is in Memorandum of March 1, 1973 to CIA Deputy Director for Plans from CIA Chief/Central Cover Staff, reprinted in Nedzi Committee Hearings, pp. 1073-1076.
7. Sprague, The Taking of America 1, 2, 3, privately printed, Hartsdale, N.Y., 1976, p. 158.

## SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

THE CONTINUING INQUIRY, P. O. BOX 1140, Midlothian, Texas 76065

Please enter my one-year subscription to THE CONTINUING INQUIRY. My payment of \$24.00 is enclosed. (\$12.00 for students)

Mail to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

8. Lectures by Mrs. Graham to college audiences, quoted in Counter Spy, Winter, 1976, p. 7.
9. Paris Flammonde, The Kennedy Conspiracy, Meredith Press, N.Y. 1969
10. Editorial in Washington Post, "Is Walter Fauntroy a CIA Agent?" April 27, 1977.
11. Robert Katz, "Disarray in Assassinations Probe: 'Hundreds of Unsolved Questions'," Seven Days, April 11, 1977, p. 16.
12. Conversations between the author and Richard E. Sprague, April-May, 1977.
13. Peter Dale Scott, Crime and Cover-Up, Westworks Publishing, Berkeley, Cal., 1977 pp. 23-24.
14. Interview with L. Fletcher Prouty, Gallery, Nov., 1975.
15. Prouty, The Secret Team: The CIA and its Allies in Control of the United States and the World, Prentice Hall, N. J. 1973: Ballantine Books, N.Y. 1974
16. Prouty, pp. 213, 217 (Ballantine edition).
17. Vincent J. Salandria, "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: a Model for Explanation", Computers and Automation, Dec. 1971, p. 35.  
Cf. remarks by Carl Oglesby on the subject in The Yankee and Cowboy War, Sheed, Andrews and McMeel, Kansas City 1976, pp. 58-59.
18. David Halberstam, The Best and the Brightest, Random House N.Y., 1969.

## FOR SALE

For the first time the Jim Towner slides are available. These four slides were taken in Dealey Plaza immediately after the shots were fired that killed President Kennedy. We consider three of these slides extremely important. Price for the four slides is \$12.00 per set.

THE CONTINUING INQUIRY  
 Penn Jones, Editor  
 P. O. Box 1140  
 Midlothian, Texas 76065



## THE "EASTERN ESTABLISHMENT" AND THE POWER OF PROPAGANDA: SOME RECENT HISTORY (Continued from last issue)

By Christopher Sharrett

## The On-Going Process

The basic question, then, concerning the makeup of the power structure centers on whether or not "right-wingers" or "splinter elements" within our political institutions could have maintained cover-ups on the various acts of clandestinism for so long, and then go on to rewrite the history concerning these events. Could H. L. Hunt or Howard Hughes both perpetrate the assassinations and methodically deceive the public through the Eastern media for over a decade? Although the Hughes-CIA connection was hidden for many years, this was certainly to protect current operations of the CIA rather than the integrity or interests of the Hughes conglomerate itself, except insofar as Hughes could still assist CIA functions. Hughes influence with the Eastern news media was negligible; in fact, the media was often a subject of contempt with Hughes due to its constant infringements on his privacy. The current attempts by the media to romanticize Hughes continues the pattern of removing an important person from the context of political history by concentrating on what is essentially psychohistory, an effort by media to mesmerize us with a man's personal foibles.<sup>20</sup>

It is interesting to see a similar situation in the revisionist studies of the Kennedy period. Along with the Halberstam-related works, the exploitation of the JFK sex stories and the fabrication or falsification of incidents related to Kennedy's political career lead to the same objective as the official accounts of Watergate, i.e., to discourage us from attempting a painstaking study of our recent history by making us have a contempt for that history, by showing us that our past leaders were amoral "bums" and an understanding of their deaths seems hardly worth the effort. A recent article by Tom Wicker in Esquire puts the problem in focus.<sup>21</sup> Wicker discusses whether or not it is "OK to admire JFK"; one must ask by whose standards is such a judgment made? What Wicker is really discussing is whether or not it is chic to admire our late President, again presuming that our opinions of JFK are based on the revisionist propaganda and personal qualities attributed to him by those political forces interested in preventing us from asking "is it ok to admire JFK" in the context of the political realities of the past decade, which really controlled Kennedy's life as much as our own.

Again, the real question here is how this state of national ennui and self-loathing originated. Who is responsible for the interpretations of Kennedy presented in the New York Times, in Esquire and endless publications over recent years, always reappearing when the interest in genuine investigation becomes most intense? To posit that a "splinter element" of our government is responsible for this entire convoluted situation seems most unrealistic, but one must ask how the dimensions of the problem can be measured, who can now examine it and how it will be examined, which brings us to the present situation.

## Alternative Journalism, the House Committee and the Future

On one level it is essential to recognize first the enormity of the conspiracy and the stakes involved; it is crucial to understand that no single investigation will change the direction both of our governmental system and the general attitude of the public, the lethargic attitude nurtured by the sources of power in this country. We must move as carefully but as quickly as possible in attempting not so much to educate as to inject a new enthusiasm and a new critical perspective in those people still interested enough to listen. It is necessary that other alternative sources of information of news be cultivated since, as was demonstrated, all the conventional outlets of news in this nation are interested only in profiteering and deceit, probably in that order. Finding reliable friends in journalism may be particularly difficult, especially when we discover the true

orientation of certain "deftist" writers of the past. A case in point is I. F. Stone, one of the favorites of the New York Times for his renowned independence and provocative prose in his weekly attacks on authority. A reexamination of I.F. Stone's Weekly can be most productive, mainly when we discover that Stone's work was not based on research as much as it was simply a rehash of current events with a Marxist point of view; in short, Stone told us what we already knew. When this accomplishment is coupled with Stone's endeavor, one quite similar to the conventional liberal criticisms of the strategic situation of the past twenty years, criticisms, which are basically placebos causing us to recognize our anxieties, to distrust our government without telling us how this criminality functions.

It is imperative to understand that a system with an overwhelming control over information can also control forms of criticism.<sup>22</sup> We have witnessed numerous examples of this recently in the glorification of Bernstein and Woodward and in the unchallenged position of Jack Anderson as the dean of investigatory journalists, the beacon-carrier of our liberty. Attempting to discover who is trustworthy and who isn't can be a painful, vexing process which may divide the ranks of committed citizens; the divisiveness is also something anticipated by the opposition--it is the essence of counterinsurgency. Today magazines like New Times and Seven Days have set themselves up as alternatives to the newsweeklies, and along with Rolling Stone, Saga, Argosy and other periodicals have published useful information diluted by an equal amount of trivia and junk (or disinformation) brought on by editorial policies which do not seem to discriminate (New Times also published the JFK-Judith Exner tale with the veracity and origin of this timely revelation scarcely questioned). The sincerity of these publications has yet to be judged, but the very hubris of some of them (New Times' claim that it "reopened the JFK assassination probe") tends to diminish our confidence.

On another level is the work of officialdom itself in the various way it tries (or pretends to try) to expose the truth to the public. Obviously the Executive Branch, controlled by the PCG, will do little to enlighten us, although it is reasonable to expect more "blue ribbon panels" or Special Prosecutors from this or future administrations. It is unlikely the judicial system will move one iota on the subject of assassinations, based on past performance. We are left then with the Congress. It is easy to scorn the impotence of this institution, particularly in light of the whitewashes both Houses were forced to accept in the Watergate and CIA matters. The problem which confronts us, however, is how a solution can be implemented within the confines of our present, Constitutionally-based government. Although some researchers, whose despondency runs deep on the matter, feel that investigations should be confined strictly to independents, to individuals totally outside the government, this approach is not workable for several reasons. First, independents have had a difficult time withstanding the discrediting process at which the media and the executive agencies are so adept. Second, without subpoena power and the other types of leverage the Congress can use there is little hope of bringing the guilty before due process of law. Third, however significant the answers produced by independents may be, using them to rewrite our history and to set our nation on the right course will be next to impossible since, again, it is easy for the opposition to question the motivations, etc., in conducting the assignment and the very mandate for doing so.

As Richard E. Sprague has stated to me, the Congress remains the only sensible place for this investigatory process to continue; however negligent or compromised they may be, the members of the House are there as representatives of the American people and if they fail miserably it is up to the public to express its displeasure forthwith. And here is the other side of this two-edged sword: it is finally up to the people to make these investigations work, to maintain their own diligence over their government and to begin to recognize the breadth of the problem before them. In an era which insults the integrity of the human mind and the value of the human individual, the struggle will be intense indeed.

## FOOTNOTES

19. The attempts by the CIA to rejuvenate its prestige and restore confidence in its operations take on different aspects, some of which backfire. A recent pictorial essay on CIA headquarters (Time, June 20, 1977 - a blurb promoting the article appeared on a cover featuring James Earl Ray's picture) along with a CBS News special called "The CIA's Secret Army" (Friday, June 17, 1977) tend to have a demoralizing effect on people genuinely knowledgeable of CIA tactics. Oftentimes the CIA relies on vacuous news items dealing solely with James Bond-glamour aspects of the agency; at other times we are overwhelmed by the sheer gall of the media and the CIA for acknowledging terrorist activity which CIA is aware of and condones.
- On the other hand, current attempts of the CIA to "come clean" by revealing largely phased-out operations occasionally reveals, to the initiated, a trifle more than the CIA anticipated; see Hearings Before the Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities of the United States Senate, Vol. 1: Unauthorized Storage of Toxic Agents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1975.
- Cf. R.B. Cutler, The Umbrella Man: Evidence of Conspiracy, privately published, Manchester, Mass. 1975. Cutler's prescient analysis of exotic intelligence weaponry actually precedes the testimony before the Church Committee by various CIA/DIA employees.
20. Noah Dietrich and Bob Thomas, Howard: the Amazing Mr. Hughes, Fawcett Books, N.Y., 1977. This book, almost certainly written by CIA and Hughes operative James Phelan (cf. Scott, op.cit., pp. 63-65) is very likely a laundered version of the Clifford Irving biography, which may have tied Hughes more explicitly to the intelligence community and explained the workings of Robert Maheu. As in the case of John Kennedy, a dead man's closest friends and associates permit a denigrating false history to be created.
21. Tom Wicker, "Is it Still OK to Admire JFK?: Yes", Esquire, June, 1977, p. 65.
22. Quigley, op.cit., pp. 929-956.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PREDICTION!!!!

Gordon Novel will soon be a "convenient" suicide, we regret to report.

---

 SUBSCRIPTION BLANK
 

---

THE CONTINUING INQUIRY, P. O. BOX 1140, Midlothian, Texas 76065

Please enter my one-year subscription to THE CONTINUING INQUIRY. My payment of \$24.00 is enclosed. (\$12.00 for students)

Mail to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_