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How Times Change

(Or did the CIA

shadow Dr. Kissinger, too?

By William Worthy

William Worthy, correspondent of The Baltimore Afro-American, was the first US newsman (1956-57) to defy the US travel ban on China. The resulting legal hassle over his passport, which was not renewed for 11 years, is recounted in "The Ballad of William Worthy" by folksinger Phil Ochs.

A year or two after returning from China, while I was lecturing for a day at Texas Southern University, a Negro faculty member came up at the end of a seminar and identified himself to me as an economics professor.

In a voice audible to everyone, and with a broad "I know all about you" grin on his face, he said:

"You know, Mr. Worthy, when you were in China, I was working on the CIA's China desk in Washington. Every morning, we used to receive a top-secret report of your movements in China the day before."

Presumably, CIA operatives still function inside China—possibly in the two-payrolls role that Khrushchev once joked about with CIA Director Allan Dulles.

"Oh, I know you," Khrushchev kidded when they were introduced at a Washington reception.

"We read the same reports from the same agents. Why don't we get together and pay those fellows just one combined salary?"

So I can't help but wonder if the more proficient of them got wind of Dr. Kissinger's presence in Peking. Some invisible pressures from Foster Dulles.

and filed hourly reports to the top-level computers in Washington. The speculation isn't entirely far-fetched. After all, however politically primitive, US spies *are* efficient in fact-finding, and Lyndon Johnson *did* suspect that the CIA tapped his White House phones.

The day after Mr. Nixon announced his Peking travel plans, NBC News contacted Chinese authorities about the possibility of satellite television coverage. How different this journalistic initiative from the time when I was there. In the 1950s, the mass media consistently played footsie with the Washington myth-makers about the non-existence or the "imminent collapse" of the People's Republic of China. (Ditto revolutionary Cuba not long afterwards.) The gospel according to Secretary Dulles was that any journalistic visits would "lend respectability" to what he decreed to be a tottering, outlawed regime.

Under this stern edict, CBS News, which in its 1955 "Report to Stockholders" had cited me for having made the first broadcast from Moscow in eight cold-war years, adamantly refused to let me take along to China any of their cameras or tape recorders. This was to protect the network from any official charge of "collusion" in my going. But the understanding was that, if I could borrow someone else's equipment and ship back film and tapes, they would be used on the air. They were, despite

Twice from Peking and once from Shanghai I was also able to broadcast for CBS. The first voicecast was, of course, a journalistic scoop, and the cablegram from the New York news desk several hours later expressed professional delight. The signal to Oakland had been clear, the content satisfactory. But there was one problem. Not being attuned to the State Department "non-recognition" nonsense, I had used "Peking" in the broadcast, instead of the old Kuomintang name for China's capital.

Thus the punch-line suggestion. In future voicecasts the news desk would prefer "Peiping—pronounced B-A-Y-P-I-N-G".

If acted upon, the suggestion would have been totally self-defeating, and I hadn't the slightest intention of heeding it. Justifiably, the Chinese would have been offended, and studios for future broadcasts would not have been made available. Knowing that David Chipp, the Reuters correspondent in Peking, would be both amused by and scornful of this typical American childishness, I let him read the cable.

"I'll tell you what you should do, Bill," he said. "On your next broadcast, when you reach the return cue, just say: 'This is Bill Worthy in Peiping. Now back to CBS News in New Amsterdam.'"

To be fair, the bad case of media jitters was not wholly self-induced. From Foggy Bottom, Mr. Dulles was behaving like the nation's foreign as-

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