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BOOKS

A Friendly View Of The CIA

THE REAL CIA. By Lyman
B. Kirkpatrick, Jr. 312
pages. Macmillan. \$6.95.

IN recent years the Central Intelligence Agency has received such a poor play in the press, but earned such a glamorous mask in television and the movies—where spies and spy-esses have become as white-hatted as their counterparts in Cowntown—that the public can scarcely be blamed for having a confused impression of the nation's foreign-intelligence-gathering body. It is good, therefore, to report that an informed and temperate account of that organization has been published.

The author's qualifications could hardly be higher. Mr. Kirkpatrick, who resigned his post in the spring of 1965, had risen to about the second or third level before resigning to accept a professorial position at Brown University. In one form or another, he had been in intelligence for over twenty-two years, starting with the Office of Strategic Services in World War II.

His three chapters on the O.S.S., progenitor of the C.I.A., make an interesting story (and include mention of two well-known Marylanders—Col., now Lt. Gen. William W. Quinn, a native of Crisfield, and Maj. Trafford Klotz, now an artist resident in Baltimore).

After this prelude, the author devotes the rest of his book to its stated subject, and it is surprising how many pages of print can be expended upon an officially unprintable topic. It is also pleasant to announce that the first-person style is readable.



L. B. KIRKPATRICK

With a minimum of names, Mr. Kirkpatrick covers the C.I.A. from its first director, Rear Adm. Sidney Souers, to the current one, Richard Helms. There are no observable exposes but many absorbing divulgations, ranging from criticisms of internal structure to appraisals of future potential.

Bay Of Pigs

For the general reader, the most beckoning chapters will probably be the pair allotted to Batista's Cuba and to the Bay of Pigs. While Mr. Kirkpatrick feels that President Kennedy should never have

acknowledged personal complicity in the latter, "the failures were primarily those of the Central Intelligence Agency, because it had been given the responsibility for the conduct of the operation and the operation was a failure."

Mr. Kirkpatrick is convinced the Director of Central Intelligence should serve as the President's "third man," after the Secretaries of State and Defense, but reminds us that the salary was made commensurate only in 1964.

He wishes American newsmen would steer more of their ferreting energies toward the Soviet K.G.B., "which is much bigger than, wealthier than, and more ubiquitous than all United States Intelligence agencies combined. The reason is simple—they can't find out about it as easily as they can about organizations in the free world."

Mr. Kirkpatrick has presented this venture into autobiography in order to demonstrate "why I believe that the development of the world's best intelligence service is a necessary element to help bring about the ultimate conditions for the elimination of all intelligence services." In the interval before this utopian moment, the present volume should take its place beside Allen Dulles's "The Craft of Intelligence" as an authoritative commentary on a significant subject.

CURTIS CARROLL DAVIS.

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