

MAR 3 1963

Approved For Release 2005/08/22 : CIA-RDP88-01350R000200740011-1

STAT

## Lawyer's Strange Defection Causes Worldwide Reaction

**VANISHED** — By Fletcher Knebel, Doubleday & Co. \$5.95, 407 pages.

Reviewed By  
**ROSALIE M. RAPHAEL**

A prominent Washington attorney disappears under odd circumstances setting off a series of explosive reactions that shake national and international politics to their foundations. Stephen Greer, confidante of the President, and of impeccable repute, is the focus of the widespread search that ensues. This is intensified when there are two more missing persons of high significance in the fields of science and research. Investigations seem to reach an impasse of frustration in trying to turn up clues and there are wild rumors and speculation as to what has happened to the men and why.

This is a story set in a not so distant future and President Rondebush's press secretary, Eugene R. Culligan, is in main the narrator of the mysterious events that occur at breakneck speed.

It is a Field Day for the news media both domestic and foreign and reports "on good authority" run rampant as to the reasons and secrets surrounding the vanishing of the three men.

\* \* \*

**SUBSEQUENT** investigation and dogged research uncover a possible connection between the three men and begin to bare a snarled and intricate pattern of strange relationships and also a baffling conspiracy of silence on

the case from many quarters.

Mr. Knebel is a gifted writer and the mercurial pace of his narration keeps the reader intrigued with what he has to relate. His "Seven Days in May" was a thriller and he utilizes some of the same technique in creating an atmosphere of impending disaster, in "Vanished."

This novel is one that ostensibly reaches a "happy ending," but in a sense, this is the very feature that weakens the book, as the complicated under plot is as fantastic as the possibility of it happening this way.

The frantic search for the men reaches from Washington to the South Pacific with stopovers in all sorts of places. The basic idea is just peachy, but man has a long ways to go before such a

finale could take place. Only in some far off Messianic age could it happen.

Ironically enough, there are a number of subversive manoeuvrers in this one, but the popular whipping boy of the past few years, the C. I. A., is pictured as the villain of the piece. One would think that the C.I.A. was an alien organization and that all its efforts on behalf of the United States were engineered by an enemy. I, for one, don't go along with Mr. Knebel's views on this. In an age of deception and nationalistic commando methods, a few seemingly devious tries on our own part are merely for self preservation. Naivete can no longer exist, in even a Democracy, if it hopes to survive.

This novel is exciting, suspenseful and timely. Read it and find out for yourself, and in doing so one thing that will have "Vanished" is temporary boredom.