

Key Watergate Figure

James Walter McCord Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 28 —Ever since the police arrested five men inside the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee headquarters last June, investigators and the curious have been asking questions about them — particularly about the chief of the break-

in squad, James Walter McCord Jr. Who was McCord working for? What was

his role at the Committee for the Re-election of the President? How much did he know about who ordered the Watergate operation? Where did he come from?

Only a few of the questions about the Watergate affair and about the man have been answered. Presumably some of them were asked again today when McCord testified in private before a select Senate committee.

McCord was an employe of the Central Intelligence Agency for more than 20 years. Some say he was just a technician, a subordinate whose days were consumed assigning guards, guarding safes and generally securing the C.I.A. headquarters hidden in the woods at Langley, Va.

Reputed Security Chief

Others say he was the chief of all security for the agency. "He was the No. 1 man," L. Fletcher Prouty, a retired Air Force colonel, asserts.

"I was introduced to McCord by Allen Dulles [the former C.I.A. director] who said, 'Here is my top man,'" recalls Mr. Prouty, who has just written a book, "The Secret Team," about his years in intelligence work.

The introduction came at a meeting concerning an investigation of the shooting down of a United States Air Force plane over the Soviet Union in 1959.

McCord was such a good interrogator, Mr. Prouty says, that, from the questions he asked the crew when it returned, he was able to find a picture and identify the Soviet intelligence agent who had questioned the airmen.

Worked as F.B.I. Clerk

Mystery also shrouds McCord's private life. He was born somewhere in Texas—those who know will not say definitely where or when.

When he was arrested on June 16, 1972, McCord told the police he was born Oct. 9, 1918. He did not give the place. Later, bail records indicated he was born July 26, 1924. These data would make the baldish McCord, who has kept his sturdy physique, either 48 or 54 years old.

Reports have floated around Washington that he and his wife, Sarah, are both graduates of Baylor University, but officials there say he never attended the school.

The first concrete bit of James McCord's biography begins with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where he began as a clerk in 1942. He was still a clerk when, in 1946, he left, for what reason has not been determined. In 1948 he returned to the bureau as a special agent.

Aid for the Handicapped

McCord joined the C.I.A. in 1951 and is believed to have played a role in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. Little else is known of his work in either agency.

More is known about McCord's life after his retirement in 1970.

He went to his pastor, the Rev. Walter C. Smith of the Rockville United Methodist Church in suburban Maryland, and said he wanted to spend half a day each week working for the church. Mr. Smith, who said McCord attended church every Sunday with his family before he was jailed, set up a program for older members of the congregation to meet once a month for a "social fellowship."

McCord, who has a retired daughter, Nancy, also spent many hours working to help the handicapped children. He was the chairman of a group called Concerned Citizens for Exceptional Children and he volunteered to help get a new wing for his daughter's school, the Kennedy Institute, in Washington.

"They are just a lovely family, and wonderful neighbors," according to one housewife living on the cul-de-sac in Rockville where the McCords reside in their \$38,000 brick home.

Taught at College

The neighbors say the McCord's son, Michael, is a junior at the Air Force Academy and that their other daughter, Carol Anne, attends the University of Maryland.

McCord taught at nearby Montgomery College for two semesters in 1971. The course, "Industrial and Retail Security," was described in the school catalogue as "the historical, philosophical and legal basis of government and industrial security programs in a democratic society."

McCord now has a new secret. During the 16 days when he was on trial he spent hours writing in a spiral notebook in the courtroom. When asked what he was writing, McCord, a gregarious man, even during the trial, would smile but would not answer the question.

CHARLES BARTLETT

Rough Handling of Elite Agency

The suburban mausoleum housing the CIA's unique collection of intelligence-gathering talents is an unhappy corner of town under its tough-minded new management.

The CIA had not appeared a likely candidate for the woodshed. The agency emerged from Vietnam less scarred than any of the other participants. It has managed its ticklish responsibilities in Laos with admirable skill and slowly recouped, through persistent prudence, the standing that was lost 12 years ago at the Bay of Pigs.

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The force behind the move to shake up the CIA is President Nixon. While Henry Kissinger has usually seemed satisfied with the intelligence he's been getting, Nixon has tended to regard the agency as a last stand of the old school tie, a vestige of the Eastern establishment that he dislikes so intensely. It is probable he has not forgiven the CIA for creating in 1960 the missile-gap illusion that worked against his election.

Moreover the vast cost of photographic intelligence, the rich harvest of the satellites' ranging eyes, has contributed to an uncomfortable swelling of the intelligence community budget. It stands now at about \$1.5 billion, enough to raise outside suspicions that secre-

cy may be serving as a cushion to soften the fiscal squeeze that afflicts the rest of government.

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The President's chosen instrument for the CIA shakeup is James Schlesinger, a 42-year-old recruit from academia who has made his presence felt in a series of key administration jobs. Solid and self-assured, Schlesinger offers a sharp contrast to the "band of brothers" style of leadership with which Allen Dulles ran the CIA. The new director did not want the job but he has moved into it hard.

His conduct suggests his embrace of a thesis that the CIA has been functioning in a cozy, self-protected world which has grown somewhat isolated in suburbia and more remote than it should be from those who make the policies. Schlesinger appears bent on disrupting the traditions that defer to the intelligence mores of an earlier era and deny the new importance of technology.

He is going after some of the protective devices. He wants estimators who will lay their judgments on the line instead of hedging so they are never wholly right or wholly wrong. He has taken an ax to the personnel deadwood, seemingly undeterred by his predecessors' fear of provoking discharged employees into becoming security risks.

It all adds up to rough treatment of an elite agency and complaints are stirring at what some describe as needless brutality. Schlesinger is criticized more for his style than for what he is doing, but the bitterness is enlarged by lingering resentments against the callous way in which the President replaced Richard Helms, the previous director who had staked a strong claim to his subordinates' loyalty.

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Schlesinger's track record in Washington portends that he knows what he is doing. There is no graceful way to shake up an agency. But he will need to shift, at some point, from being the CIA's shaker to being its leader and he may find he has paid a price in demoralization, perhaps in the loss of men he can ill afford to lose, for his precipitous manner of taking command.

If Schlesinger can make the CIA leaner without causing its employees to feel they are being punished, his intrusion on the marble mausoleum will be a healthy thing. It is patently clear that an era of wary detente is not going to diminish the need for good intelligence and it is useful to have a wise outsider examine an operation long run by insiders:

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C.I.A. AIDE TO TELL OF I.T.T. DEALINGS

Official to Testify on Chile
in Unusual Arrangement

By EILEEN SHANAHAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 26—

The Central Intelligence Agency and a special Senate subcommittee agreed today on an unusual arrangement whereby a C.I.A. official will testify tomorrow about his dealings with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation in connection with the political situation in Chile.

Events at issue occurred in 1970 and 1971, before and immediately after the election of President Salvador Allende Gossens, a Marxist. Testimony already heard by the Senate subcommittee on multinational corporations shows that I.T.T. officials, including Chairman Harold S. Geneen had repeated contacts with William V. Broe, then the C.I.A.'s director of clandestine activities in Latin America.

Company documents appear to show that Mr. Broe endorsed the view of the company that all possible steps should be taken to prevent Mr. Allende's accession to power—including attempts to generate a take-over by the military.

System Used Sparingly

The arrangements made by the subcommittee, after extended negotiations with James R. Schlesinger, the new head of the C.I.A., will permit the publication, after censorship, of Mr. Broe's testimony before a closed session of the subcommittee.

This is the same system that was used last year by the Senate Armed Services Committee in the case of Maj. Gen. John D. Lavelle, who was demoted following disclosures that he had ordered bombings of North Vietnam that were not authorized by his superiors.

It is a system for getting essential testimony without disclosure of information deemed vital to national security and has been used sparingly since it was first evolved for the Senate investigation of President Truman's order of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the United States commander in Korea.

It is unusual for any testimony of an official of the C.I.A. to be made public. C.I.A. officials said the only previous instances they could remember were the testimony of Allen W. Dulles, then C.I.A. director, before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee in the late nineteen-fifties when he expressed alarm that the Soviet economy was growing faster than the American, and the testimony of Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot who was shot down and captured by the Russians.

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CIA's Cord Meyer Going to London

Manchester Guardian

The Central Intelligence Agency's new station chief in London is Cord Meyer, hitherto the agency's assistant deputy director of plans in Washington.

The planning department of the CIA is responsible for espionage and clandestine operations. Detractors of the CIA call it the "Department of Dirty Tricks."

Meyer was in line for promotion to be deputy director of plans—"DDP," the nearest CIA equivalent of James Bond's "M."

Instead, according to CIA watchers here, he is being promoted to the U.S. embassy in London. They regard this as a "kick upstairs."

In 1967, it was revealed that Meyer was in charge of covertly funding Encounter magazine and other organizations. Last summer, he became the object of further notoriety when he asked the New York publisher Harper and Row to show the CIA proofs of a book since published, called "The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia." The book linked the CIA with the drug traffic in that area.

Meyer later denied that it had been his intention to suppress the book.

Few details are known about the nature or extent of CIA operations in England. Sources here say that there is a large base for covert action in premises within a few minutes walk from the U.S. embassy in Grosvenor Square. This is the headquarters for covert action in western and eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. It was moved from Paris to London at the time of Gen. Charles De Gaulle's quarrel with NATO and the United States.

The CIA works closely with British intelligence and claims not to engage in clandestine activities in Britain.

Meyer's career is a fascinat-

ing story. He was one of the most brilliant men of his year at Yale University in the early 1940's. He lost an eye in a Marine landing in the Pacific war and wrote a short story about the experience called "Waves of Darkness." After the war, he became a passionate advocate of world government and wrote a book on this subject. He was a hero to the student generation of the late 1940's.

He joined the CIA in 1953 at the urging of Alan Dulles. At that time, the Agency was a respectable haven for liberal intellectuals. During the McCarthy era he was investigated for alleged Communist associations but was cleared. In fact, he had never been a Communist sympathizer. He soon became as ardent for the Cold War as he had been for the United World Federalist movement.

Meyer's assignment to London is seen by CIA watchers as a part of the purge which the agency is experiencing under its new director, James Schlesinger. Reports in Washington this week say that the CIA's 18,000 personnel is to be cut by 10 percent by June 30. Schlesinger, a businessman with no intelligence background, is said to be making a through-going reappraisal of the CIA's functions and op-

ERATIONS.

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CIA planner is 'kicked upstairs'

From PETER JENKINS, Washington, March 21

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One of the Central Intelligence Agency's most famous "dirty tricksters" is to be its new station chief in London. He is Mr Cord Meyer, hitherto the assistant deputy director of plans. The Planning Department of the CIA is responsible for espionage and clandestine operations. Detractors of the CIA call it the "department of dirty tricks."

Mr Meyer was in line for promotion to be deputy director of plans—"DDP" the nearest CIA equivalent to James Bond's boss "M." Instead, according to CIA watchers here, he is being promoted to the US Embassy in London. They regard this as a kick upstairs.

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moved from Paris to London when General de Gaulle quarrelled with NATO and the United States.

The CIA works closely with British intelligence and claims not to engage in clandestine activities in Britain. It operates several communications interception stations. The "special relationship" between Britain and the US is still alive in the intelligence field. For example, Britain has no satellite surveillance capability of her own and relies on information-sharing with the US.

Mr Meyer, who will be in charge of all this, has had a fascinating career. He was one of the most brilliant men of his year at Yale in the early 1940s. He lost an eye in a marine landing in the Pacific war and wrote a short story about the experience called "Waves of Darkness," which is regarded as a minor American classic. After the war he became a passionate advocate of world government and wrote a book on the subject. He was a hero of the student generation of the late 1940s.

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Told Chinese all early in captivity, Downey relates

From Sun-Times Wires

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — Freed CIA agent John T. Downey said Tuesday he was subjected to intensive questioning by his Communist captors and told them "about every bit of information I had."

Downey, 42, returned here Monday night after more than 20 years' imprisonment to be with his critically ill mother. The Central Intelligence Agency man discussed some aspects of his captivity at a press conference, but refused to reveal details of the mission that led to his capture.

When asked if he revealed any "secrets" to the Chinese, Downey said: "I would say I revealed about every bit of information I had" during the first nine months in prison.

"I don't feel I would like to discuss" the type of information revealed, he added.

Downey brushed off the suggestion that any information he had given might have had lasting importance, calling it "such ancient history."

(In Washington, intelligence officials pointed out that CIA agents are routinely advised that if captured they may reveal all that the enemy might reasonably be expected to have learned on its own.

The officials noted that Francis Gary Powers followed that course after his U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960 and that late CIA Director Allen Dulles told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Powers had acted properly.

(In Downey's case, it is known that the Chinese had

learned the details of his operation before they captured his team of agents inside China prior to shooting down his plane.

(CIA agents operating in dangerous areas are generally excluded from a knowledge of any of the agency's activities other than their immediate work.)

Downey was asked by a newsman if he thought "what you were doing" was worthwhile.

"I'd say no," he answered. "I'm not quite sure if I have gotten the ramifications of that, but as I say, I thought the 20 years for a large extent were wasted and I don't see it benefited anybody."

It was not clear, however, whether Downey was questioning the worth of the 1952 mission that led to his capture or the time he spent in jail. He did not elaborate.

Speaking in a quiet, reserved manner, Downey said that during the first 10 months after his plane was shot down over Manchuria in November, 1952, he was kept continually in leg irons.

The Chinese subjected him to "pretty intensive questioning" and threatened his well-

being, but never beat him, he said.

The slightly balding Downey was released to be at the bedside of his mother, Mary V. Downey, 75, who suffered a severe stroke Wednesday. She remained in critical, but improved condition, and visited twice with her son.

Flanked by his brother William and sister Joan Walsh, Downey was composed and joked occasionally. Asked about any possible value gained from his time spent in Green Basket Prison, he replied: "I wouldn't recommend it for character building."

Asked whether he would remain with the CIA, he said: "At present, I would say not."

Downey, who joined the CIA after he graduated from Yale University in June, 1951, said he never lost hope but felt some bitterness and discouragement during his imprisonment. But he said the bitterness disappeared when he was told he would be released. By then, he said, "I just felt pretty unbitter."

He attributed his hopefulness in part to a belief that the Chinese will "sock it to you with a heavier sentence, then let you off with a lighter term."

Downey said the agreement for President Nixon to visit mainland China "caught me so much by surprise that I nearly fell off my chair." That visit, last year, and an earlier trip by U.S. table tennis players "broke the ice" that had prevented his release until then, he said.

He added that he didn't believe anything more could have been done by the United States to win him an earlier release.

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CIA on the Trail of a Book About CIA

By Jack Anderson

The cloak-and-dagger boys at the Central Intelligence Agency are trying to get an advance copy of a book which is highly critical of the CIA's "dirty tricks department."

The author, ex-Air Force Col. L. Fletcher Prouty, was the Pentagon support officer for the CIA over a nine-year period. He did everything from supplying them with James Bond weapons to shipping three dozen lobsters to a CIA bigwig. And he has written a book about it, "The Secret Team."

To get the unedited galley, the CIA library approached the distinguished Sidney Kramer bookstore only a few blocks from the White House. A representative of the bookstore immediately called Prouty and suggested he could "help the sale" of the book by providing a copy of the galley.

But Prouty had been in intelligence too long to be an easy touch. He agreed to meet with the Kramer representative and then secretly recorded their conversation. Here is a partial transcript:

"Do you represent others?" asked Prouty.

"I can tell you who wants this," confided the emissary. "They're on our backs—the CIA."

"They are?"

"Evidently someone was going to present them with a copy the day before yesterday," said the representative,

but the deal fell through.

Prouty refused to turn over the galley to the CIA, which had a messenger waiting for them at the bookstore. We can provide the CIA, however, with some of the highlights:

CIA Secrets

• The CIA, Prouty charges, trained agents in the Maine woods because of the similarity to the Russian fir forests. Then it flew them to Norway where they were hopped into Russia on a light pontooned plane which landed on a hidden lake.

• The CIA skillfully managed to keep out of the Pentagon Papers almost all mention of its assassination and other "dirty tricks" operations in South Vietnam, alleges Prouty. Instead, the CIA larded the Papers with examples of how good its intelligence proved to be.

• In 1959, one of CIA Chief Allen Dulles' spy planes allegedly was shot down over Russia. The crew was captured, questioned by Soviet intelligence and later quietly returned to the United States. They were debriefed after their return, by, among others, James McCord, a former CIA man convicted in the Watergate scandal.)

• Even though the late President Kennedy ordered the Joint Chiefs to keep a tight rein on covert CIA military operations after the Bay of Pigs debacle, the CIA circumvented the order in Vietnam and the Pentagon supinely let

them get away with it, says Prouty.

Footnote: In an earlier incident, the CIA went to court to block a book by one of its former employees, Victor Marchetti. But Prouty was never on the CIA payroll. When we asked the CIA whether an attempt would be made to suppress Prouty's book, a spokesman said: "There are no plans whatsoever to do anything about the book."

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Airman's Bookshelf

Dept. of Dirty Tricks, Mark I

OSS—The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency, by R. Harris Smith. University of California Press, Berkeley, Calif., 1972. 458 pages. \$10.95.

With a shake-up of some sort apparently due at CIA, this new history of the Office of Strategic Services—the predecessor wartime agency—reminds us how this nation first became committed to supporting a “Department of Dirty Tricks.” Critics may ask how any country, and particularly one seemingly dedicated to saving the free world, justifies activities by its intelligence-gathering apparatus that are widely interpreted as meddling in the internal affairs of other nations. This fact-packed book indicates how CIA became “a mirror image of OSS” by tracing the creation and wartime history of the parent agency.

The author, once a CIA research analyst and now a lecturer in political science at the University of California Extension, has chosen a “popular history” approach to what must have been a wealth of detailed information about long-forgotten missions. He has organized his material into chapters covering broad outlines of OSS activity in each successive theater of action as the war developed, illustrating an absorbing story with operational specifics. The result is straightforward history, which nevertheless conveys the climate of wartime espionage in Occupied Europe and the Far East. As Germany faced defeat, the brash young agency sent more of its operatives to the Orient, where they met a chilly reception indeed.

The founding father of OSS was William Joseph Donovan, a Wall Street lawyer whose personality shaped the agency and determined its working methods to a degree which, in many instances, has remained unaltered in CIA. The author makes clear that intervention—often heavy handed—in political affairs of underdeveloped na-

tions became the CIA norm because the agency retained the OSS mandate for political warfare acquired in wartime struggles against fascism.

Another contributing factor was introduced by continuing the OSS “tradition of dissent” among CIA field operatives who, in the author’s words, often undertook “arrogant adventures” because they had “developed operational independence from a relatively enlightened staff at CIA headquarters.”

Some argue that the cold war necessitated extending the “dirty-tricks” period into post-World War II years and that only later changes in the foreign affairs scene have made such behavior anachronistic, requiring a thorough shake-up of agency attitudes.

A fascinating parade of OSS employees passes through these pages. Some are now famous in other contexts—Arthur Goldberg and Julia Child, for example. There is, of course, the obligatory chapter on Allan Dulles and his well-publicized contacts with enemy representatives seeking surrender. There were blue bloods, intellectuals, political activists, movie actors, crowned heads, corporate magnates, and patriotic nobodies. Most possessed unusual talent, administrative ability, technical know-how, or other outstanding characteristics. OSS attracted able employees as well as unstable thrill seekers. The author tells us where they are now in a spate of footnotes—in some chapters almost one to a page.

To cope with snobbish British intelligence, Donovan staffed the London office with a corps of blue bloods. But in field operations, rifts between OSS and British Special Operations people developed early in the game. Generally, the Americans would back anybody who could get the work done, Communists included. The British, in most cases, sponsored the conservative, rightist element and, if there was one, the deposed monarch.

Successful efforts by the Allies to work out differences and cooperate may have helped to save postwar France from civil war. But in Greece and Yugoslavia, failure to cooperate may have

helped escalate conflict between local guerrilla groups.

The passage of time points up other contradictions. Original OSS field recruits were idealistic for the most part, disliking power politics, and, yet, from the time Operation Torch (the invasion of North Africa) they became increasingly involved in political maneuverings.

Donovan was a “can-do” type who impressed military men, and yet, in crucial days in the Far East, his operatives foundered because of their failure to win over General MacArthur and, at least initially, General Stilwell.

As background for today’s headlines, the most intriguing sections deal with events in China and Vietnam as Japan lost her grip and paradoxical Allied policies laid the groundwork for future trouble. Those who survived the events of the time provide rare anecdotes.

One OSS group sent with the French to Hanoi was the first US unit to make contact with Ho Chi Minh. OSS Maj. Frank White recalls a chilly dinner with Ho and members of his cabinet, attended by French, Chinese, British, and Americans. Seated last in the only vacant chair, next to Ho, White remembers: “The dinner was a horror. The French confined themselves to the barest minimum of conversation and scarcely spoke to the Chinese. . . .” White, referring to his place at the head of the table observed to Ho, “I think, Mr. President, there is some resentment over the seating arrangement at this table.” Ho replied, “Yes, I can see that, but who else could I talk to?”

—Reviewed by Marjorie Ulsamer, Deputy Director, Publications Division, HUD, and a former CIA employee.

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