

Washington Merry-Go-Round

CIA Bars FBI Watergate Interviews

Jack Anderson

The Central Intelligence Agency has ordered its agents not to talk to the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the explosive Watergate case.

Yet curiously, the CIA has cooperated fully with Sen. Frank Church, (D-Idaho), who is investigating the cozy relationship between the White House and ITT. A clandestine CIA operative, William Broe, was even granted permission to testify at the Senate hearings.

Early in the Watergate investigation, however, the CIA balked at giving information to the FBI. G-men approached CIA officials and succeeded in interviewing one before the gag was imposed. The CIA formally requested the FBI not to question CIA people, and orders were issued to John Rule, the Watergate case supervisor, to lay off.

Some of the Watergate conspirators worked with the CIA on the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion. James McCord, who headed the Watergate break-in squad, spent more than 20 years in the CIA. Our sources say he met Richard Nixon, then Vice President, during a CIA investigation into the shooting

down of an Air Force C-118 over Russia in 1959.

Bigotry Backfire

The wonderful people who bring GI radio listeners the sermons of such bigots as Gerald L. K. Smith and Rudolf Steiner hate to read about it in this column.

We recently told how this unlikely pair—Smith, the nation's most durable anti-Semite, and Steiner, who wants to send blacks to Africa—had been venerated over the military airwaves.

In alarm, the commanders of the vast military radio-TV network called a meeting behind closed Pentagon doors. It turned out that the purpose, however, was not to stop bigots from preaching on the armed forces network but to keep us from finding out about it.

The Pentagon's broadcast chief, Col. Frank Huray, who has a weakness for junketing in the Caribbean, presided over the hush-hush meeting. Our story about Smith's free air time, he said mournfully, "got me in the gut."

Then he glared at his assembled subordinates. "I don't care if this gets back to Jack Anderson or not," he snorted.

His sidekick, Hoyt Wertz, said the broadcast by Smith might have been a "goof" but he didn't see anything wrong with what Smith said.

After further berating whoever was responsible for the "leaks," Huray and Wertz stalked from the room and secured their own files with locks and security bars.

Despite these elaborate security measures, we have obtained additional information on the racist broadcasts. For instance, the producer of the Gerald L. K. Smith show, Bill Bertenshaw, wrote a private, reassuring letter to Wertz, promising: "I don't think you'll have any more Anderson columns" about religious programs. Future shows, he assured Wertz, would feature Jews, Blacks, and Mormons.

"I don't want column three" from Anderson, he declared emphatically.

Bertenshaw also included his answer to a Rabbi who had complained about the Smith show. "I would not now schedule this broadcast," Bertenshaw assured the Rabbi. "I probably should have looked into this more closely . . . It will not happen again."

Footnote: A sergeant in Huray's office is busy almost full

time answering inquiries about the bigots. One of the most zealous, and frustrated, inquirers has been Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), who is now seeking comment on the shows directly from Defense Secretary Elliot L. Richardson.

Tax Dodgers

The "Tax Avoider of the Week," chosen for us by ex-Sen. Fred Harris' Tax Action Campaign, is the sprawling multinational Continental Oil Company.

In 1971, Continental Oil paid nothing in federal income tax on profits of \$109,030,000. The company, which controls 56 major corporations in 35 nations, managed this by claiming oil and mineral depletion allowances, accelerated depreciation and export profits write-offs.

The Harris group asserts that the mineral depletion allowance permits Continental to deduct from its taxable income more than the cost of the actual mining operations.

A Continental spokesman claimed that the mammoth company did in fact pay federal income taxes — \$6.24 million in 1971. He had no comment on company tax write-offs.