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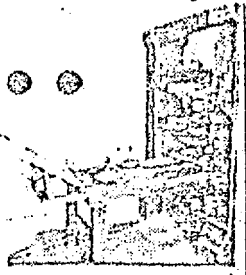
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS



PRESS



Before getting on with the rest of the American century there are a few pieces of unfinished business to be cleared up. To wit: why did the Watergate burglars want to tap Larry O'Brien's phone? Why did Howard Hughes give \$100,000 to Bebe Rebozo for Richard Nixon? What were the terms of Hughes' arrangement with the Mafia in Las Vegas? Why did the CIA give Hughes a zillion-dollar contract for the Glomar Explorer? Was Deep Throat working for the CIA? Did the CIA have a case officer monitoring the Plumbers? Did someone blow up the plane carrying E. Howard Hunt's wife? Why were Hunt and Liddy planning to crack Hank Greenspun's safe in Las Vegas? Did the CIA put a tap on Judith Exner's phone in October, 1960? Why did Howard Hughes neglect to leave a will, when he had frequently declared a plan to leave his fortune to the Hughes Medical Institute? What is the CIA's relation to the Hughes empire now that Hughes is dead?

For that matter, why did the CIA deal with Hughes, a man whose loyalty it could not check? Why did the CIA allow Robert Maheu to tell Hughes that the CIA had asked Maheu to organize a Mafia operation to kill Castro? Who killed Maheu's instruments, Sam Giancana and John Roselli? Why did Lyndon Johnson believe that Castro killed John F. Kennedy? Why did the CIA neglect to investigate the presence of certain Cuban agents

in the United States at the time of ~~the Kennedy assassination~~ assassination? Why did James McCord ask Bernard Fensterwald to represent him during the Watergate hearings, when Fensterwald was well-known as the chairman of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations? Was Frank Sturgis telling the truth when he told UPI in July that Jack Ruby met Fidel Castro 10 weeks before Dallas?

Why are there so many questions of this sort? How are we going to answer them? What is their hidden meaning?

The literature on these matters is staggering: literally hundreds of books, hundreds of pages of citations in the *New York Times Index*, tens of thousands of pages of Congressional hearing transcripts, scores of green-and-gray-covered Senate and House committee reports, thousands of CIA and FBI documents, thousands of entries in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, thousands of unindexed articles in newspapers and magazines. It would take a team of trained researchers a year just to gather it all. It would take a decade to skim it. It would take a lifetime to absorb and see it whole. It might take forever to understand it.

But if you haven't got a lifetime to give to this undertaking, you can still get the flavor of its rich complexity by reading one book, J. Anthony Lukas's *Nightmare: The Underside of the Nixon Years*, and three recent articles: Howard Kohn's "Strange Bedfellows: The Hughes-Nixon-Lansky Connection" in *Rolling Stone* of May 20, Norman Mailer's "A Harlot High and Low: Reconnoitering Through the Secret Government" in *New York* of August 16, and Larry DuBois's and Laurence Gonzales's "The Puppet and the Puppetmasters" in the September *Playboy*. These authors have all mined the existing literature—Lukas and Kohn have strip-mined it—but they have returned to the surface with a very great many more questions than answers. Their only common conclusion is that there is more here than meets the eye.

But what? Their diagrams look like highway maps, in which every throughway and back country dirt track eventually meet. There are facts in plenty to support any conjecture. In the land of Kennedy-Nixon-Hughes-CIA-Cuba-Mafia you can get from anywhere to anywhere. Sometimes the route is broad and well-marked, sometimes circuitous. Our cartographer-authors have done heroic work, mapping the interconnections of power and money in Darkest America, but they are far from agreeing why there are so many unanswered questions and what is their hidden meaning.

One despairs of finding the answer, but one does not want to give up either. It comes down to being a personal matter. The fact that Hughes, Nixon, the Mafia, the CIA and all their various partners, allies, friends, agents and heirs want us to sigh and shrug and leave them alone spurs us on. In addition, the issues are im-

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