

Drudge, W.E.

P-Prouty, L. Fletcher

Soc4.01.2 The Secret Team

CIA 4 Chile

HOUSTON, TEXAS
POST

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• **Book**
recommended

I think your editorial staff should read "The Secret Team" by L. Fletcher Prouty before they condemn Sen. Mansfield ("Why?" — Post-commentary Sept. 28) for wanting an inquiry into possible CIA involvement in the Chilean overthrow. I have no evidence that the CIA was involved and I don't believe your staff has any evidence to the contrary. The Senate could investigate without . . . a public trial. Besides, if the CIA was involved, all of Latin America already knows, so what is the harm if the citizens of the United States also know?

The CIA is bound by law to be under the direction of the National Security Council, and is not supposed to be engaged in any covert operations without the direct order of the NSC. President Nixon is a member of the NSC and when the new director of the CIA was sworn in the President remarked: "I hope the CIA will not become involved in anything I learn about in the newspapers."

I feel it is past time for us as a nation to start controlling the operations of the CIA and limit it to the functions for which it was created and let the State Department handle our foreign policy . . .

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You sagely mention what you don't know and what you think the Post doesn't know; then you make the sweeping and enigmatic statement: "Besides, if the CIA was involved all of Latin America already knows . . ." You do not say where you got that information.—Editor.