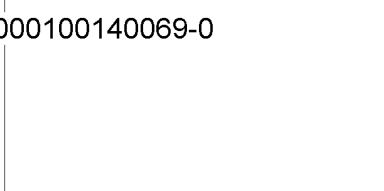


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THE NATION
3 OCTOBER 1981



DAVID ATLEE PHILLIPS v. DONALD FREED, et al.

Author Donald Freed, attorney William Pepper, political scientist Fred Landis, teacher Patricia Freed and several others are being sued by former Senior Officers of the Central Intelligence Agency for \$90 million. A group of retired spies called the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, founded by David Atlee Phillips in 1975, has raised a "war chest" to finance the suit against Freed, hoping it will serve as a test case to deter other writers or critics of the C.I.A. from making "absurd charges."

STAT

As Charles Morgan said in a Pacifica radio news essay:

... *Death in Washington*... is a thoroughly researched, apparently deeply documented work, tightly, one might say tautly, drawn. It is clearly written, in some places poetic... Unhappily, it is not fiction. It is a damning indictment of fact.

More than a ridiculous demand for \$30 million in compensatory and punitive damages on each of three counts is at stake here... The private suit of David Atlee Phillips is an ominous straw in a chilly wind against which our faces must be turned as we scrub away at devious plots and plans.

Former United States Attorney General RAMSEY CLARK and the noted civil liberties advocate MEL WULF have agreed to be chief counsels in the defense and countersuit of Freed. They do so at a time when the Reagan Administration is attempting to eradicate restraints on the C.I.A. and the F.B.I., and to render useless the Freedom of Information Act. Again quoting Morgan, "Add to this the prospect of suits, individual and class actions, to stifle further voices that dissent to police state organizations and their activities. Nineteen eighty-one counts down to 1984."

The "et al." in the case caption includes many others as yet unnamed. But we are *all* the et al., for censorship reaches into every home in the land when it reaches just one. The costs of preparing a defense against such charges could mount into the six-figure range; despite the generously donated labor of several attorneys. But it would cost far more to ignore it.

"This attempt to silence critical voices like that of Donald Freed's is very serious. They are not playing games... This is the way it starts—think of Germany, think of Chile..."

Ramsey Clark

Please help. Make checks payable to:
Donald Freed Defense Fund. Mail c/o: Jean Anderson, Esq.
3760 Cardiff Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90034

Here is my contribution of \$ _____

From: Name _____

Address _____