

*Watergate Exposed*  
*How the President of the United States and the Watergate*  
*Burglars Were Set Up as told to Douglas Caddy, original attorney*  
*for the Watergate Seven*

Robert Merrit

Walterville (OR): TrineDay, 2011, 240 pages, index;

p/b, (US) \$19.95

www.TrineDay.net

**T**his is a very interesting bad book with a misleading title. It's bad because little thought or work appears to have gone into its construction and there is much repetition. The title is doubly misleading: in the first place, little of it – less than 10% I would guess – deals with Watergate. Secondly, the suggestion that Nixon and 'the plumbers' were set-up is false. The author tells us that a Washington policeman was warned in advance of the Watergate burglary and let it happen, before arresting 'the plumbers'. Even if, as is speculated here, that policeman was linked to the CIA in some way, this is not setting them up.<sup>1</sup>

The book is interesting chiefly as a firsthand account of a career agent/*agent provocateur* for the American local and national state – police, FBI, and God knows who else (half the time Merritt seemed to neither know nor care for whom he was really working). To my knowledge there has been nothing quite like this before, *if the author is to be believed*. Maybe Louis Tackwood's claims<sup>2</sup> come closest; but Merritt's activities are on another planet, *if he is to be believed*. It's a big 'if'. Merrit was a serious druggie, with the moral capacity of a bar of soap, who made a living as a deceiver for almost 20 years. But if only half of it is true, this is an appalling tale from the lower depths of the American dream through which, run by a succession of state agents, Merritt trawled among the American left and Washington politics, seducing, entrapping, planting, disrupting, snitching and, on one occasion, trying to

---

<sup>1</sup> These Watergate dimensions are discussed in a fascinating piece by Jim Hougan, 'Robert Merritt and the Scandal That Dare Not Speak Its Name', at Hougan's website <<http://jimhougan.com/wordpress/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Citizens Research and Investigation Committee and Louis E.Tackwood, *The Glasshouse Tapes* (New York: Avon, 1973)

poison anti-war protesters. Phrases like 'the American Gestapo' were used in the 1970s on the American left to describe the activities of the state against them. Merritt's confessions here, if only half true, make those claims seem a little less ridiculous.

Readers who have been paying attention to the LBJ-dunnit version of the Kennedy assassination in the past few years in these columns will recognise the name of Merritt's co-author, Douglas Caddy. For it was Caddy who presented to the US Department of Justice the affidavit of Billy Sol Estes, which named LBJ and others as being the perpetrators of the Dallas killing. As a young lawyer in Washington at the time of Watergate, Caddy worked for the Mullen Company, a CIA front, and represented 'the plumbers' when they got busted.<sup>3</sup> Caddy writes a foreword and an afterword trying to contextualise these rambling memories of Merritt's. In some ways these are the best bits of the book. Not only has Caddy had a small speaking part in two of the seminal political dramas of post-war America, for many years he was a deeply closeted gay man in Republican circles in Washington. *He* should write a memoir.

*Robin Ramsay*

---

<sup>3</sup> A profile of Caddy is at John Simkins' invaluable site. See <[www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKcaddyD.htm](http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/JFKcaddyD.htm)>.