

Spy story
concerns
political
espionage

The Glass House Tapes By Louis E. Tackwood
Dissent and radicalism is probably as American as Mom and apple pie. Government attempts to suppress dissent are generally as traditional, but it seems to have been on the losing side in the past few years. With the publication of *The Glass House Tapes*, the government has lost another round.

The glass house is the building in Los Angeles which incorporates the technology and personnel used to gather information on some 150 militant Americans.

The glass house tapes are the tape recordings made by Louis E. Tackwood of Los Angeles Police Dept. It is written with the aid of Citizens' Research and Investigative Committee (CRIC), a mixture of liberals, left-wing radicals, socialists and Communists that helped write this book.

Tackwood was a long-time spy for the police and the FBI. He was to join various political organizations and attempt to break them up by creating dissent or by creating situations which would enable the police to arrest the leaders of these organizations.

For example, one black militant was set-up in the following manner. Tackwood was given some money with which he bought some heroin. Tackwood then visited his friend and asked him to briefly hold some money for him. The police suddenly appeared, and Tackwood later testified that the heroin found on him was just confiscated from this black militant.

bruce ne
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The book begins with the story of Tackwood's life. It details how Tackwood, after being in trouble with the police, was given a choice between prison and becoming an agent. He became an agent. In an attempt to escape his situation, he contacted some of those with whom he was supposed to infiltrate and told them his story. However, only about one-half of the book is about Tackwood. The rest of it is a loose history of police suppression in America.

Most of Tackwood's story is believable and can be documented by other sources. Many of his personal beliefs such as the organized conspiracy by the police to establish a police state in America are definitely unbelievable.

My major objection to the book is with those who did most of the writing, the members of the CRIC.

First of all, they organized the book poorly. Tackwood's story is interrupted by histories of suppression and left-wing rhetoric which often is directionless and adds little to the book.

The writing is melodramatic, and one has to keep looking at the cover to be reassured that it isn't a James Bond novel being read.

All this is disappointing, because the original idea of simply having Tackwood tell his story is a good one. It's especially frustrating to read political philosophies one agrees with which make a poor showing.

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