

the wire" thanks to internecine political intrigues. It appears that Clancy's hero will try to come to grips with the legal and moral problems of the invasion. But, in the end, he finds the only real issue is a technical problem of running operations behind the backs of the Congressional Oversight Committee, and the old ethical problem of abandoning field operatives to be slaughtered in the field, to the political exigencies of covering up a potential scandal.

More verisimilitude than truth

Clancy, who is obsessed with giving his tales verisimilitude, with details sometimes bordering on the tedious, loses touch with reality, when he keeps out some "extraneous" factors that might complicate the scenario.

The economic issues behind the growth of the drug trade are avoided. Colombia was a nice country, one of the characters observes, "It was a pity that the economy had not developed along proper lines." This is echoed several times in the text by various characters, and is the only concession to the fact there are other dimensions to the drug problem in Colombia. But Clancy is an intelligence buff, and intelligence and military people cannot concern themselves with the larger political intricacies. So they act in the only way that they know.

The issue of money laundering is dealt with as a simplistic scheme in which the Cartel buys a few corrupt businessmen who do some fancy manipulations. Major banking and finance institutions are apparently just as naive and helpless as the Colombian government.

There is also no involvement of hostile foreign powers in the cocaine business. The Cartel has bought the loyalty of a former DGI Cuban Intelligence colonel. Clancy accepts the existence of small conspiracies, but does not entertain the possibility that the drug trade is a low-intensity war against the United States by the Soviets and their allies in what is called the "Anglo-American-Soviet Trust."

Clancy's oversight is the equivalent of the lone assassin theory of the Kennedy assassination, but in Clancy's world such a depiction of "the larger picture" might complicate things past the point where a field operative would be able to make the best decisions on the ground. Clancy's story is only a struggle between the Cartel and military and intelligence field operatives.

Unfortunately, as we have seen over the past decades, things don't work quite so smoothly. And the real constitutional and moral issues are never discussed. Clancy's scenario revolves only around the problems brought out in the Iran-Contra scandal, and described so clearly during Oliver North's 1987 congressional testimony, when North explained that he had violated the laws of the American Constitution in order to preserve the American Way.

So, this book, which will fall on receptive ears in Washington, is no more than another position paper, reinforcing the current thinking about how to conduct the "war on drugs."

Apparently, since the Vietnam War, we have forgotten the fundamental lesson that in order to win the war, it is also necessary to win the peace.

Books Received

Pardons: Justice, Mercy, and the Public Interest, by Kathleen Dean Moore, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989, 271 pages, hardbound, \$22.95.

Parting the Waters, America in the King Years, 1954-63, by Taylor Branch, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1988, 1,064 pages, hardbound, \$24.95.

Insider: My Hidden Life as a Revolutionary in Cuba, by José Luis Llovio-Menéndez, translated by Edith Grossman, Bantam Books, New York, 1988, 466 pages, hardbound, \$27.95.

Taking the University to the People, Seventy-five Years of Cooperative Extension by Wayne Rasmussen, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, 300 pages, 1989, hardbound, \$24.95.

Toward a Well-Fed World, by Don Paarlberg, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, 1989, 270 pages, hardbound, \$29.95.

Massacre at Beijing: China's Struggle for Democracy, by the Editors of Time Magazine, with an Introduction by Nien Cheng, Time-Warner Books, New York, 1989, 280 pages, paperbound, \$5.95.

The Andy Warhol Diaries, ed. by Pat Hackett, Warner Books, New York, 1989, 807 pages, illus., \$29.95.

The World of Jeeves, by P.G. Wodehouse, Harper and Row, New York, 1989, 654 pages, paperbound, \$10.95.

Collecting Himself: James Thurber on Writing and Writers, Humor and Himself, edited by Michael Rosen, Harper and Row, New York, 1989, 268 pages, hardbound, \$19.95.

For Love and Money: A Writing Life 1969-1989, by Jonathan Raban, Harper and Row, New York, 1989, 344 pages, hardbound, \$22.50.

"Dumbth": And 81 Ways to Make Americans Smarter, by Steve Allen, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, N.Y., 1989, 359 pages, hardbound, \$19.95.