

An Amazon Best-Selling Author (Historic Thriller Fiction) For Two Years, Entrepreneur-Turned-Novelist Gordon Zuckerman Releases His Latest Book In The Critically-Acclaimed *Sentinels* Series.

“This is an appealing look at the historical, political, and economic events that shaped the world in the years after World War II...*The Voices Behind the Curtain* is a solidly written and edited novel featuring an engaging cast of characters that will appeal to many interested in the historical, political, and economic events that shaped the world in the years – after World War II.”

--*The Foreword*

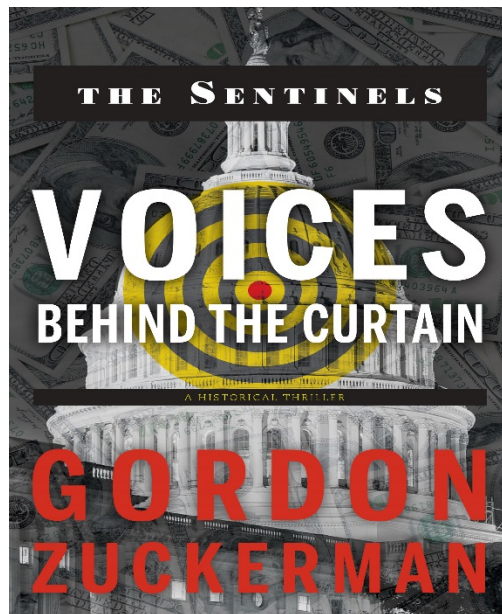
“A somnolent financial potboiler.”

--*Kirkus Reviews*

“Zuckerman crafted a byzantine fiscal thriller...a defense of the free market...Zuckerman uses historical accuracy to good effect. Armchair economists should find plenty of financial and political intrigue here.

--*Blue Ink Review*

Voices Behind The Curtain



Can the United States government be protected from the self-serving quest of the “Military Industrial Complex”? Does the world even know it needs to be saved from what lurks behind the curtain?



Gordon Zuckerman's Amazon best-selling historical fiction series, *The Sentinels*, is back with a new installment just in time for today's real world, one that is gripped with some of the same fear, corruption, and absence of responsible leadership that his books describe.

The post-World War II military industrial complex is explored under Zuckerman's analytical and action-filled globe-trotting thriller. It's a book of principles vs. power, of greed vs. the selfless opposition. His latest novel examines what he calls a "Power Cycle" threat that occurs when "The Three Princes of Tyranny" private industry, government influence, and the support of the financial community, organize their collective influence and wealth to pursue self-serving agendas to be achieved at the public's expense.

A successful entrepreneur, Harvard Business School graduate, and student of history, Zuckerman connects the dots of history and develops the plots for each book of his series. Zuckerman has used his writing easel to illustrate what can happen when a small group of courageous, high-minded, problem-solving main characters decide to oppose the looming threat of malignant agendas of misdirected concentrations of wealth and influence.

His latest work of historical fiction takes place in the immediate years following World War II and right through the early years of the Cold War and the McCarthy Hearings. We are thrust into a plot by a secret band of American industrialists looking to manipulate Congress into inflating military spending. In addition to expanding the post war cost of government, the successful quest could encourage the American and Russian governments to engage in an ever-escalating arms race. It is a plan that will allow military prime contractors to profits at the expense of hundreds of millions of private citizens.

Zuckerman is available to speak about:

- Why we need to be concerned about "Win at any cost leadership?"
- What is the role for responsible entrepreneurial leadership?
- Why we are still plagued by corruption and greed at the highest levels of government ?
- What needs to be reformed before our government can react to curing its current problem of being over-leverage and under-employed?
- What was so special about the World War II era that still fascinates historians and readers?
- Why the use of the fictional license allows the author to explore reoccurring problems and speculate on their solution?
- What are the challenges that come about writing on substantive subjects in an entertaining manner?

"We need more, high-minded, entrepreneurial leaders," says Zuckerman, "who are opposed to those who abuse privileges of free enterprise for their own interests. A handful of powerful people in and out of government seek to control this nation and the world. We must be vigilant and look to others to both study history and learn from it, to problem-solve and find a high-minded way to lead by principle and not greed."

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Gordon Zuckerman Biography



Gordon Zuckerman writes his works of historical financial fiction with the informed eyes and ears of an international businessman who has a penchant for history. “As a history buff all my life, with a financial-entrepreneurial career that led me to deal with Congress, presidential candidates, four-star generals, Black leaders, foreign leaders, bankers, members of the Treasury Department, and a broad cross-section of American enterprise, I became aware of just how a few powerful individuals can oppose malignant agendas masked by political ideals,” says Gordon.

“Early on, I discovered I wanted to tell the story of some of the major historical events behind not just World War II, but of other wars, coups, revolutions, and national economic events that became such an important influence in our lives. Not content to limit my efforts to illustrating what might have represented a more complete story, I decided to describe what accomplished entrepreneurial

leaders might have done to oppose the misdirected efforts of powerful and secretive alliances.

Mr. Zuckerman, early in his business career, worked for a decade for Kaiser Aetna, an international real-estate development company. As charter officer, he created a nationwide joint-venture development division and represented the company’s real-estate transactions with New York’s investment community.

For the next 30 years, the founder of his own real-estate company, Gordon engaged in the development of commercial properties. In 1985 he organized “Resort Suites of Scottsdale,” a nationally recognized golf-resort hotel company, and in 2005 sold his company to a New York investment fund, and retired from the industry. He has enjoyed a second career as a full-time author this past decade.

Born and raised in a long-time asparagus and potato farming family in Stockton, California, he earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He currently serves as a director of The Brubeck Institute and several private companies. He resides with his wife, Anne, of 55 years, on their horse ranch in Northern Nevada. They have two children and four grandchildren.

He has engaged in more than 100 radio talk show interviews. Articles have been published in local newspapers that have reached more than two million readers. He is a regular participant in commercial and charitable book signing parties. He has spoken on the topic of “Entrepreneurial Leadership” at the University of Pacific’s Winter Business Forum. For more information, please consult:

www.GordonZuckerman.com.



Gordon Zuckerman

Q&A

The Six Sentinels:

VOICES BEHND THE CURTAIN

- 1. Gordon, with the release of *The Sentinels: Voices Behind the Curtain*, your historical thriller line totals four books. What inspired you to write this series?** In 2005, two years before “The Great Recession”, the executive management of Resort Suites, a Scottsdale Resort Hotel company, a nationally recognized golf-resort company, was sold to a national lodging investment fund. A fortunate and unconscious beneficiary of good timing, I was surprised and shocked by the sudden devastation of the “Great Financial Crisis.” I decided to spend my newly created spare time to look around and try to better understand the causes that led to so much financial destruction.

Some things didn’t seem right. Following the year 1970, for the next 37 years when the American GDP grew from one to thirteen trillion dollars per year (4.0% average annual rate) what was going on behind the scenes to generate such a disproportionate adjustment to our economy?

- 2. What had changed to convert a positive growth economy into an over-leveraged under-employed economy?** During the post-war period prior to the 1970’s, the American industrial community enjoyed a period of relative dominance in supplying its own consumer goods needs and that of a severely wounded world emerging from the devastation of World War Two. From 1960 to 1970, manufacturing employment increased by more than three million jobs. Over the same period, service-type employment increased by nine million jobs or at a rate of three jobs per each new manufacturing job. *Had the government taken the time to analyze the true cost of adding or subtracting one manufacturing job, it would have determined that four people would have been deleted from or added to the ranks of the unemployed, they would have understood the true economic consequence of manufacturing employment.*
 - Changed government cash flows by \$2.00 for every dollar earned by the new production worker,
 - Improved earned income available for taxation by the equivalent to 300% of the wage paid the new goods-producing worker, and
 - Increased earned income available for consumption by 200% of the total annual wage paid the new manufacturing worker.

In their quest to improve the cost competitive ability of the American manufacturer, I have a difficult time believing why responsible employers, government officials or better-informed citizens would have been so willing to sacrifice middle-class employment. Any reasonable comparison of the growth in value of



multi-national companies when compared to house hold economics, employment, a growth in public debt clearly indicates that corporate wealth has been achieved at the public's expense. It was and is my curiosity that motivated me to dig deeper.

3. **What's a Harvard Business School graduate with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California doing writing novels?** As a result of my research, I found the results to be so compelling, I felt the need to transmit what I had learned to a broader audience. Since any story of opposition must necessarily be about people, those who pursue agendas of self-interest and those who would oppose them. By connecting the dots of history and telling each story through the evolving lives of fictional principal characters, I hoped to acquaint the reader with a better understanding of what I had discovered. Using the vehicle of historical thriller fiction seemed to be my best opportunity
4. **What's your newest book about?** *Voices Behind The Current* tells a story of how certain members of the American military industrial complex attempted to utilize their resources, their political influence, and the resources of the American financial community to compromise the Congressional appropriations process for their own self-interests. Having learned of the plan, the book tells the story of how the resourceful, problem-solving Sentinels organize and implement their plan of opposition.
5. **Your genre is a bit unique. There aren't too many financial historical thrillers out there. Why do you feel a segment of the population is hungry for these kinds of books?** Two things. Prior to publication, I circulated 100 copies of the early galleys to a diverse group of friends, whose opinions I respected to be test readers. Their response to a well-researched book that told of serious problems in an entertaining manner was encouraging. Second, the fact that my first book "Fortunes of War" remained atop of Amazon's Historical Thriller Fiction list for two years, told me that I was on the right tract.
6. **Your writings focus us on the fact that just a handful of powerful people, coupled together with great resources, the support of the investment community, and the cooperation of government, are capable of creating great change which left unattended can threaten the life, liberty, and justice of the public. What can or should the average person do once they come to understand how the world really works?** As a life-long student of history, I have been impressed by the role internal national corruption has played in the demise of many of our world's greatest civilizations. Over time, a highly repetitive seven-step process has emerged that defines the early stages of corruption, traces its growing influence, and concludes when counter-vailing public resistance ultimately restores political and economic equilibrium. When I superimposed this template of a seven-phase cycle of internal corruption to the post-1970 economic events, I was able to discover there were a series of long-standing related events, when left unattended, that were responsible for creating the economy's inherent financial instability that eventually led to the 2007-'08 financial crisis. In each book, I have attempted to demonstrate how examples of this seven-phase cycle of internal corruption have been used to advance malignant agendas of the self-interested. Any antidote requires an aware and aroused public to become vigilant of the early situations where the coalitions of what I call these "*Three Sisters of Public Tyranny*" are attempting to pursue agendas of self-interest. Informed, an aroused public must learn to use their collective power of the vote to support needed change.

- 7. Where do you draw your characters from?** From real life. Each character is comprised of certain qualities, skills, experience, and personal performance of people I have encountered along the way. In the earlier books, each of the main characters was somewhat determined by the nature of the problem-solving assigned the character. Over the course of writing four books, these characters have, in my mind, evolved into real people, with real problems, personal goals and needs. The drama involved in the lives of each character is determined by their pursuit of personal needs and goals, and solving the problem at hand.
- 8. You talk in your books about a “Power Cycle.” What exactly is that and how should we come to view it?** The “Power Cycle” is a conceptual process, comprised of seven distinct phases, that describes a pattern of public events that have repeatedly led to the demise of some of the world’s great civilizations. Throughout history, the process has been so repetitious that it allows the student of contemporary events to match actual occurrences with the appropriate phase of the historical “Power Cycle” and then be able to predict what can logically be expected to occur, if left unattended. It is this conceptual lens that enables the Sentinels to identify new political/economic threats and take action when peaceful solutions are still achievable.
- 9. Not too many novels combine business, politics, and history, especially the way you have. How challenging is it to take an important subject, such as the military arms race, and make it something that informs, inspires and entertains?** For me, writing a new book resembles what occurs when painters paint in layers, in an effort to provide some unique message. The excitement comes in researching the message and the challenge comes in conveying it in a clear, concise, and entertaining manner. A more accurate understanding of the targeted threat requires the reading and analysis of the best recorded information about a particular subject, hopefully recorded by talented reporters and authors focusing on the same period. It’s been my experience when you have completed enough reading that you are satisfied with your understanding of what the real story behind the story might have been, identifying the true nature of the problem to be solved becomes evident. At that point, you are ready to connect the dots of history and formulate the plot for the next book. Perhaps the most complicated segment of the work occurs, when I set about breaking up the suggested plan of action into each of its individual components and assigning the responsibility of solving the individual piece-part problems to one of one of the principal characters. It is this process that allows me to introduce the drama contained in the lives, of each of the principal characters. Those who choose to abuse the system and those who oppose them are playing for major stakes. The element of risk and personal danger is never very far away. Romance, personal conflict, growth, and performance, are constantly being examined. Historically, each of these plots played out in a wide variety of locations, involving differing political and economic cultures, and personal and national agendas. It is this eclectic combination of circumstances that provides the author with the opportunity to transport the reader, into some very unusual circumstances taking place in some very different places.
- 10. You wrote of the oil cartel in an earlier book. In another you wrote of how manufacturing jobs were threatened. Your debut novel covered the Nazis. Now it’s the Cold War arms race. All of them take place in the 1940s and 50s. What is of significant appeal about that era?** By starting the series in pre-World War II Germany, I was able to provide the reader with an excellent example of what can happen when the “Three Sisters of Tyranny” succeeded in combining the resources to influence government. Germany’s principal owners of the country’s primary industrial, coal, and iron resources with the support of the international financial community, and its influence over Hitler’s government, left unattended, succeeded in rearming of Germany. Under the guise of pursuing national economic objectives, German government under the influence of its defense contractors invaded and occupied most of Western Europe.



Hitler's growing popularity created the popular support he needed to disregard the influence of his industrial base and convert agendas of nationalistic priorities into a global quest for Aryan supremacy. The Western world was left no alternative to oppose his ambitions other than engage in an unexpectedly costly world war.

- 11. 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of America entering World War II. You were a young boy while the Greatest Generation fought in the biggest war the world has ever witnessed. What lessons should today's generation draw from the historical events of those days?** The failure of the Western world to recognize the global military and political imperialistic implications of German and Japanese ambitions, in their early stages, demonstrated how costly failure to act can become. Today, when the proliferation of nuclear attack has rendered global military imperialism obsolete, competition for emerging global markets has created a new form of competitive sovereign economic imperialism. Competition for global market demand has outgrown traditional national borders. Since the 1970's, the utilization of lower-cost labor pools to reduce production costs has encouraged American producers of consumer goods to consider relocating their manufacturing facilities to off-shore countries. Correspondingly, potential host countries have completed a careful analysis of the unfilled needs of their targeted potential customers. Over time, they developed the ability to fulfil a long list of needs designed to improve manufacturers' ability to more effectively compete in the emerging global market place. In the United States, over the last 30 years, the transfer of well-paid, middle-class manufacturing jobs has succeeded in removing significant amounts of earned income needed to support an under-employed workforce, targeted goals for consumption of goods and services, and broaden and improve the country's taxable income base.

It is important that we realize the continued relaxation of credit practices designed to replace lost purchasing power is no longer an acceptable strategy. Not only have they failed to produce needed results, but outstanding debt balances at both the consumer and public levels are approaching unaffordable limits. Unless we assign top national priority to restoring the American-based manufacturer the ability to effectively compete in the world's marketplace, we are going to be subjected to the consequences of unacceptable levels of consumer default and the rising costs related to falling national credit ratings.

- 12. Your newest book addresses the House of Un-American Activities Committee. What should we come to think of such a powerful government body today?** The "Voices" story describes how the efforts of the resourceful Sentinel's oppose the military industrial complex's desire to insert its influence ever deeper into the American government, for the purpose of restoring military spending. The modification of public attitudes was needed to be accomplished, before public support for military rearmament could occur. The Nixon and McCarthy congressional hearings increased America's fear of possible Russian threats. Skillful promotion suggested that escalated military preparedness was the only reasonable defense from possible Russia attack. For the first time in American history, the government was prosecuting its own citizens, suspending their civil liberties, and publicizing its efforts in the press.

The lesson to be learned is, 'Don't we need to remain alert to the consequences of the abuse of civil liberties. Shouldn't we ask learn to follow the money!



13. Do secret societies demand secret solutions? Quite the opposite. The lessons of history tell us that the only effective remedy to organized pursuit of malignant self-interests requires the public to become increasingly aware, and over time represent an assertive force of opposition. Accordingly, the solution to threatening problems has to start with the public exposure of the malevolent practices. Only when the demands of the public have grown to the point where the re-election of public officials requires them to honor the needs of their constituencies can counter-vailing forces begin to succeed.

14. Your recurring themes of greed, power, and corruption are eye-opening. In your series, you highlight the need for an independent force to continue what governments and business can't seem to do. Why can't legitimate change come from within the government or Corporate America? It's a question of public awareness and the presence of responsible leadership. In environments where business and government leaders are necessarily focused on the achievement of well-defined internal, short term-goals, how can we expect them to provide the objective view and provide the needed leadership and motivation for change? It is impractical to assume the policies of governments, corporations, and the investment communities can be expected to pursue objectives that are not considered to be in their short-term best interest.

The challenge of introducing change must necessarily remain the responsibility of public-awareness and arousing, the support of effective and responsible leadership. The results of recent British and American elections demonstrate that majority or near majorities of the electorate are now aware and aroused. The leadership and required public support is yet to be determined.

In the United States, the challenge of restoring a competitive manufacturing environment has to be the standard by which we can measure problem-solving progress.

15. Your books always contain action in numerous countries and cities across the United States. I take it you are a world traveler and history buff? From years of travel, meeting interesting people, asking questions, studying different histories and cultures, I have concluded that one size of anything doesn't fit or can be expected to fit all. The world is comprised of different people, all of whom need to be better understood and respected. Accordingly, I deliberately set the locale of each book to transport and acquaint to the reader with the traits, cultures, problems, and solutions I have been so fortunate to have been exposed.

16. *Voices Behind the Curtain* draws on several strong female characters, including a beauty queen-turned-spy and an actress-turned-activist. If your book was a movie, who'd play these women? Why? The role of Natalie calls for a character who possesses seductive beauty, musical stage talent, with the intelligence required to absorb the dialogue of the playwright, portray the character as intended, to produce the voice, and the ability to absorb and perform the brilliance of the musical composition, and to learn and interpret the not-so-subtle dance creations of the choreographer. On a personal level, she desires to grow beyond the stereotype cast of a musical actress and become recognized as a smart intelligent woman interested in solving serious problems. Along the way, she questions whether she is capable of pursuing career objectives and maintaining a relationship with someone she admires and loves. My memory of a young Julie Andrews or Meryl Streep best represent a stereotype of my imagined character. The role of Mercedes calls for her to play three roles. In her childhood, she is the gawky young girl who is a war-orphaned, serious student, and devout Catholic committed to following her study of medicine. A late bloomer she enters the world of beauty contests, modeling contracts, and minor movie roles. Ambitious and fun loving, the ambitious statuesque beauty allows herself to become seriously tarnished. Reflective of her earlier life, imbedded family and spiritual values she proceeds to reinvent her life. To play this



role, an actress needs to possess the beauty of a Miss Universe, the intelligence required of a future leader, and the character of a determined woman. Young versions of Rita Hayworth, Ingrid Bergman, and Sophia Loren come to mind.

17. What writers inspire you? How do you feel your writing differs from theirs? Over the years of my recreational reading I have particularly enjoyed writers from three different genres. To each of my favorite writers, and storytellers I would like to express my appreciation for the many hours of informative enjoyment they have provided. Although, I rarely refer to prior books I have read I would like to believe elements of my author's mosaic voice have been derived from different segments of the work of all the above. My favorite historians include David McCullough, William Manchester, Ron Chernow, Daniel Goleman, Delores Kerns Goodwin, Kevin Phillips, and Anthony Sampson. My favorite historical fictional culturists include Herman Wouk, Ken Follett, Ernest Hemingway, Alan and Adam Sorkin, Wilbur Smith, Joseph Vitale, James Michener, Allen Drury, and Leon Uris. Currently, I regularly read thrillers written by Fredrick Forsythe, Erik Larson, Alan Furst, and John Grisham.

18. Your books show what can happen when a small group of courageous, high-minded, problem-solving group bands together to oppose a looming threat, one that often involves misdirected concentrations of wealth and influence. Will anyone step up in 2016 to fill our leadership vacuum? Like so many others, I am excited by the fact that a large population of voters have expressed their awareness and concern about long-ignored problems whose solution is not only critical to the improvement of millions of people's lifestyles, but may be critical to the survival of our economy as we have known it. New national priorities need to be established, understood, and deserving of majority popular support. The antidote for re-creating well-paying middle income jobs must begin with creating the economic climate whereby manufactures, existing and future will determine they can best service growing global demand by making it in the United States. The implementation of sensible, imaginative, and intelligent change coupled with responsible management needs to be regarded as a '*must have*' result of our forth coming election. Historical congressional, special interest voting loyalties must be replaced by considerations of constituency concerns.

The time has come for us to not under-estimate the concern and the intelligence of the American voter. I would like to think we are going to be faced with at least three choices.

- First: We must determine if either candidate fulfills our requirements,
- Second: If not we need to vote our protest by selecting a third party,
- Third: Independent of the Presidential election, we need to be aware of the importance of Congressional candidates, and vote accordingly.



Selected Excerpts

An Arms Race

It's January 1948. The Second World War concluded more than two years ago. Believing the world has fought its last great war, and unaware of or unconcerned about Russia's potential emergence as a new world power, the American public is preoccupied with getting married, having children, spending its pent-up wartime savings, and looking for peacetime work.

Meanwhile, defense spending has dropped by four hundred million dollars, or sixty-seven percent of peak wartime spending limits. It's a drop that has some powerful people concerned. In recent years, New York commercial and investment bankers and military contractors have been convening regularly in secret. Carefully guarded meetings have been conducted to discuss how to cushion the adverse economic effects of America's shift from wartime production to the manufacture of consumer goods.

Not even the most optimistic among the Wall Street investment managers believe proposed solutions – selling off surplus capacity, retooling plants to manufacture peacetime consumer products, and generating postwar demand – will be adequate to offset the economic consequences. Something has to be done. That's why, on this bitter cold day at the start of 1948, they decide to retain the law firm of Southwick & Cornforth. They expect its managing partner, J. Jordan McWilliams, to develop an imaginative and comprehensive plan needed to address the urgency of the situation and present it for their approval at the earliest possible date.

Checks & Balances

Jacques was talking. "I'm guessing this situation with the military appropriations represents a serious threat to the congressional appropriations process and demands our attention.

When the founding fathers set up the checks and balances of your remarkable government, I wonder if they anticipated these concentrated pockets of wealth and influence would become so dominant. Unfortunately, it's not just a problem for American citizens, a lot of people in other countries are depending upon the generosity of the American people to help them reconstruct their local economies. Already, they're starting to worry about how the cost associated with their own needs."

A Campaign Of Fear

It's one that we think could encourage our government to renew military contracting well into the foreseeable future."

"And exactly how do you intend to do that?" one of the well-oiled guests asked. His tone was sarcastic, his voice slurred.

Unfazed, Jordan responded with vigor: "Because we are planning to scare the living hell out of the American public over the threat of spreading Communism. At the same time, we are going to introduce a national publicity campaign designed to convince them that improved military preparedness is our best defense!" And, we will be electing a candidate to Congress who will decide close votes in our favor.



Mercedes Gets Attention

One by one, the limousines carrying each of the executives pulled to a stop under the canopied portecochere marking the front entrance of Senor Arena's majestic beach house. As each guest stepped from his limousine, he was greeted by Senor Arena, J. Jordan McWilliams, and the gorgeous Mercedes Cardona Velasquez, the celebrated former winner of the Miss Universe contest.

For days, photographs of Mercedes had been filling the Mexican newspapers, magazines, and posters, promoting the release of her forthcoming film. None of these images truly captured the true beauty of this striking, sensuous woman. Mercedes was an imposing figure, seeming much taller than her five feet ten inches. She wore three-inch high heels. Her jet-black hair was curled into a glossy French twist arranged on the top of her head. Beautifully arched eyebrows and high cheekbones framed her wide green eyes. Her aquiline nose and strong chin perfectly complemented her broad jaw line, her wide mouth and full lips. Her flawless facial beauty was further enhanced by her buxom figure, broad hips, and long legs. Mercedes could always count on being the center of attention.

Forces Behind The Red Scare

It's all part of this Communist inquisition stuff being conducted by the House Un-American Activity Committee. They are attacking Hollywood actors, writers and directors suspected of having some prior affiliation with the Communist party. If these people are not willing to sign affidavits incriminating themselves and their friends, they are served subpoenas and are expected to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) for questioning."

"Natalie, apparently, you have not been reading the newspapers. It just gets worse. This legally constituted congressional committee is questioning everyone who refused to sign those affidavits or an employment related loyalty oaths. I am having a difficult time understanding how the fear of Communism can cause the American government to violate the personal liberties of its citizens who are presumable protected by the Bill of Rights?"

After carefully composing what he was about to say, he reached over, put both arms around her and whispered in her ear, "To me, the whole thing seems like a big publicity stunt designed to scare the hell out of the American public. The question we should be asking is "What is really going on behind the scenes?" As they walked from the car to their front door, Natalie suddenly stopped, looked directly into David's eyes and asked, "You are a smart guy, what do you think it might be? What are your friends telling you? What would HUAC stand to gain by using its hearings to scare citizens over the threat of Communism?"

A New "Power Cycle"

"Tom, it's not that we object to the idea of rearming that concerns us. It's the way these military prime contractors are attempting to use their wealth and influence to circumvent traditional governmental appropriation practices that we are questioning. Perhaps, I need to explain."

After resuming their walk at a slower pace, the old professor asked, attempt are you suggesting when you and your Sentinel friends have placed what you have learned under your "Power Cycle" microscope, and have convinced yourselves that you have stumbled on to the opening gambit of military industrialists attempt to exert their influence within our government for their own self-serving interests?"

"Tom, let me share with you what really has us bothered. We have convinced ourselves that a post-war military build-up in the United States could trigger a reciprocal response by the Russians. While we don't anticipate that aggressive rearmament programs might lead to another world shooting war, it could mean



years of escalating military spending, weapon development, and heavy government spending. Our concerns are limited to opposing those who would introduce these agendas of self-interests. Our interest in Arena is directly connected to learning more about his relationship with J. Jordan McWilliams and those military-industrial executives.

Becoming A Target

Relieved to learn Cecelia and Don were safe, Mike started to analyze what must be happening. He could understand why the three of them would be considered to be threatening and had become active targets. “If any of Arena’s colleagues had become aware of our presence, and the possibility of our uncovering the proof needed to substantiate his skimming operations, I have to assume he would use all possible means to prevent us from completing our quest, including kidnapping or murder.

Understanding why they were targeted, came as no great surprise. The tip of their pending attack could have been provided by one of “Marco’s friends” but why would three different government agencies choose to become involved? “How would they have known of our problems and not suspect becoming involved with high-level government influence still remains a mystery.”

Who Will Step Up & Fight Back?

“When, in recent history, have six independent, career-oriented friends, sharing a disgust for those who would abuse the privileges of free enterprise, would succeed in convincing so many responsible leaders to lend their support and cooperation to assist you in solving important problems. That’s what I want to talk about!

“As I look around the table, I still see excited eyes, some of which have been tempered by ten years of difficult and dangerous work. If any of you were to ask me what I have learned, it would be two things. One, the continued emergence of these Power Cycle problems, clearly indicates they are part of a continuing process.

“That’s what I want to talk about. It raises the question, “What should we be doing today to ensure tomorrow you will be able to expand your network of contributing Sentinel friends and to perpetuate what you have started?”