

CIA CHANGED 'ANIMAL FARM' ENDING TO FAVOR CAPITALISM COLD WAR BOOK DETAILS AGENCY CULTURAL FORAYS: [FIRST Edition]

Laurence Zuckerman 2000, The New York Times. **Times - Picayune** [New Orleans, La] 19 Mar 2000: A5.

Abstract (summary)

The CIA, it seems, was worried that the public might be too influenced by [George] Orwell's pox-on-both-their-houses critique of the capitalist humans and communist pigs. So after his death in 1950, agents were dispatched (by none other than E. Howard Hunt, later of Watergate fame) to buy the film rights to "Animal Farm" from Orwell's widow to make its message more overtly anti-communist.

Rewriting the end of "Animal Farm" is just one example of the often absurd lengths to which the CIA went, as recounted in a new book, "The Cultural Cold War: The CIA and the World of Arts and Letters" (The New Press) by Frances Stonor Saunders, a British journalist. Published in Britain last summer, the book will appear here next month.

Much of what Saunders writes about, including the CIA's covert sponsorship of the Paris-based Congress for Cultural Freedom and the British opinion magazine Encounter, was exposed in the late 1960s, generating a wave of indignation. But by combing through archives and unpublished manuscripts and interviewing several of the principal actors, Saunders has uncovered many new details and gives the most comprehensive account yet of the period between 1947 and 1967.
