

John - who represents him. Could papers be interesting way

U. S. Suit Against Ex-CIA Man May Outweigh Ellsberg Case

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WASHINGTON. — A little-noticed government suit against an ex-CIA man is under way and could have far greater impact than the Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles.

A U. S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., has enjoined Victor L. Marchetti, 42, now a writer, from violating the unique pledge of secrecy in his CIA contract. It granted the government unprecedented "prior restraint" via civil process on his writings on intelligence subjects.

If the government's view is upheld through appeal courts, authorities will have a potent new weapon for curbing security leaks.

The White House has followed the case closely and given consideration to inserting the same CIA secrecy provision into all government



VICTOR MARCHETTI
... secrets leaked?

employment contracts if the suit is sustained.

This would probably inhibit press contacts with officials who would become more vulnerable to government legal action.

Much less proof is needed to show a breach of contract in civil court than the "heavy burden" required of the government in criminal cases — like Daniel Ellsberg's — were intent to harm the national interest, as well as actual harm

to those interests, must be proved.

On the other hand, if the courts uphold all of Marchetti's arguments, as presented by the American Civil Liberties Union, the CIA contract's secrecy agreement could be declared unenforceable and much more intelligence information would become public from former CIA employes.

This, aside from making a living, is Marchetti's declared aim. He wants to open up the agency to greater Congressional and public scrutiny and to force the reform of what he calls its "clandestine-oriented" attitudes and practices.

"This excessive secrecy, the sanctity of the cult of intelligence, is just so much crap," Marchetti said alleged enormous waste and inadequate Congressional control over the CIA's \$700 million annual budget and the operations of its 17,000 employes. The CIA refuses to discuss the case.

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