

Post 2-23-76

Mr. Ford's Secrecy Bill

The following is the complete text of the President's secrecy legislation:

To amend the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, (50 U.S.C.A. 403) is further amended by adding the following new subsection (g):

(g) In the interests of the security of the foreign intelligence activities of the United States, and in order further to implement the proviso of section 102 (d) (3) of the Act that the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for protecting intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure—

(1) Whoever, being or having been in duly authorized possession or control of information relating to intelligence sources, and methods, or whoever, being or having been an officer or employee of the United States, or member of the Armed Services of the United States, or a contractor of the United States Government, or an employee of a contractor of the United States Government, and in the course of such relationship becomes possessed of such information imparts or communicates it by any means to a person not authorized to receive it or to the general public shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both;

(2) For the purposes of this subsection, the term "information relating to intelligence sources and methods"

means any information, regardless of its origin, that is classified pursuant to the provisions of a statute or Executive order, or a regulation or a rule issued pursuant thereto as information requiring a specific degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure for reasons of national security and which, in the interest of the foreign intelligence activities of the United States, has been specifically designated by a department or agency of the United States Government which is authorized by law or by the President to engage in foreign intelligence activities for the United States as information concerning—

(A) methods of collecting foreign intelligence;

(B) sources of foreign intelligence, whether human, technical, or other, or

(C) methods and techniques of analysis and evaluation of foreign intelligence.

(3) A person who is not authorized to receive information relating to intelligence sources and methods is not subject to prosecution for conspiracy to commit an offense under this subsection, or as an accomplice, within the meaning of sections 2 and 3 of Title 18, United States Code, in the commission of an offense under this subsection, unless he became possessed of such information in the course of a relationship with the United States Government as described in paragraph (1): *Provided, however, That the bar created by this paragraph does not preclude the indictment or conviction for conspiracy of any person who is subject to prosecution under paragraph (1) of this subsection.*

(4) It is a bar to prosecution under this subsection that:

(A) at the time of the offense there did not exist a review procedure within the Government agency described in paragraph (2) of this subsection through which the defendant could obtain review of the continuing necessity for the classification and designation;

(B) prior to the return of the indictment or the filing of the information, the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence did not jointly certify to the court that the information was lawfully classified and lawfully designated pursuant to paragraph (2) at the time of the offense;

(C) the information has been placed in the public domain by the United States Government; or

(D) the information was not lawfully classified and lawfully designated pursuant to paragraph (2) at the time of the offense.

(5) It is a defense to a prosecution under this subsection that the information was communicated only to a regularly constituted subcommittee, committee or joint committee of Congress, pursuant to lawful demand.

(6) Any hearing by the court for the purpose of making a determination whether the information was lawfully classified and lawfully designated, shall be *in camera*;

(A) at the close of any *in camera* review, the court shall enter into the record an order pursuant to its findings and determinations;

(B) any determination by the court under this paragraph shall be a question of law.

(7) Whenever in the judgment of the Director of Central Intelligence any person is about to engage in any acts or practices which will constitute a violation of this subsection, the Attorney General, on behalf of the United States, may make application to the appropriate court for an order enjoining such acts or practices, and upon a showing that such person is about to engage in any such acts or practices, a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order may be granted. In the case of an application for an order under this paragraph;

(A) the court shall not hold an *in camera* hearing for the purpose of making a determination as to the lawfulness of the classification and designation of the information unless it has determined after giving due consideration to all attending evidence that such evidence does not indicate that the matter has been lawfully classified and designated;

(B) the court shall not invalidate the classification or designation unless it finds that the judgment of the department or agency, pursuant to paragraph (2), as to the lawfulness of the classification and designation was arbitrary, capricious and without a reasonable basis in fact.