

# Study Hits Industry's Product Rules

By Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Supposedly, the public is protected by the rigid standards governing the quality of manufactured goods. But more often, standards are set to squeeze consumers and to fleece

support these standards before the Senate committee hearings.

from the confidential Senate study:

• A determined small businessman named August Hebel discovered a new way to decrease metal distortion. For years, he made the rounds in Washington seeking acceptance for his process. But everywhere, he was told to get the approval of the American Society for Testing and Materials, which seemed more interested in protecting the old established methods. Not until subcommittee attorney John Ray threatened the society with Senate exposure did it agree to look at Hebel's process.

• The Watts Regulator Company of Lawrence, Mass., developed a backflow valve for pipes, which would cut valve costs in half and could save purchasers

thousands of dollars. Yet the National Foundation for Consumer Standards for such valves refused to certify them. Only three of the valves which manufacturers

iel P. Moynihan called the Columbia University Press in a huff over the book, "Nixon's Good Deed," which is mildly critical of his role as President Nixon's welfare adviser. As publisher Robert Barnes remembers the phone call, Moynihan told him hotly that the book wasn't "appropriate for a respectable university press to print." Most reviewers, on the contrary, have hailed it. Reached at Harvard, where he teaches, Moynihan told us he had been sent the book for comment and "as a scholar in the field, I gave my scholarly opinion."

Kevin Maroney, the deputy assistant attorney general who is examining the question of whether former Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms gave the Senate perjured testimony, represented the CIA in a 1966 case. Maroney worked closely with Helms on the case and obtained an affidavit from him. The Justice Department official acknowledged to us that he had worked with Helms but insisted this didn't

disqualify him from reviewing the perjury charges. He has no intention, he indicated, of withdrawing from the case. . . . Israeli geologists claim they have located an estimated 7 billion barrels of oil in the Ramat Hashikma region of occupied Jordan. Twenty years ago, American Edwin Pauley formed a partnership with Phillip Phillips to drill in this area. The partnership drilled about 100 wells. According to the Israelis, Phillips should have drilled deeper.

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JL- If you missed the letter from H. Richard Chew in the Post of 5/1 I can't it to consider if we'll want to talk to him in connection with a suit. He pretends outrage (and I don't mean it isn't sincere) at the kinds of things involved. He places blame on "the political leadership," or takes a Nuremberg view. HW 3/2/75

## Defining the Authority of 'Security' Agencies

Post 3/1/75

When Richard Helms was appointed director of Central Intelligence, I, as a former career officer and lawyer for CIA, wrote my first "Letter to the Editor." It was to The Post, and I praised the choice.

This is my second such letter, stimulated by articles in The Post by Tom Braden (February 3) and others. The columnists seem consistently to miss a distinction vital to a sound approach to the problems created by the activities of CIA and other "security" agencies: The authority to conduct these activities versus the political and social wisdom of doing so. When we are offended by certain instances of domestic surveillance, we are quick to call them illegal, but what really bothers us is not that they are illegal, if they are, but that they are offenses against the national spirit.

Braden has not attempted to define CIA's authority and neither has any other writer I have seen. Assuredly, some of the law on this point is unsettled, but it seems clear that the authority is broad indeed. Whether CIA has treated it as being more broad than it is remains to be seen. If CIA has the legal authority to try to overthrow Hitler, then it has the legal authority to try to overthrow Trudeau, but the formulation of wise policy is not always so easy as it is in this exaggerated contrast.

In any event, if the policy is legal, the policymaker bears the responsibility. I am concerned about the public's recent overemphasis on the acquiescence by senior officials to political decisions of dubious wisdom. Within the framework of the law, these officials ought to either resign, if conscience demands it, or acquiesce and be responsive to the direction of the elected leaders. If they do neither, they become independent powers not even indirectly subject to the will of the people. And when they are responsive, and the political directives they follow are bad, we can throw the elected rascals out, as, indeed, we have done.

One reads of the shocking sabotage of a dissenting professor, reportedly an independent lark by agents who still probably see Communists under beds. Even more horrendous are the celebrated clandestine operations conducted at the direction of the political leadership. Happily, our system has means, although different means, for dealing with both.

It is difficult to guess whether CIA's more questionable adventures have been independently mounted or have been counseled and even directed by the White House. Before we make Ambassador Helms the patsy, we should find out which.

H. Richard Chew.

Arlington.