

Who was the CIA defender who supposedly once noted before a congressional committee that the constitutional amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press was "just an amendment"?

That isn't the exact quote from Dr. Ray S. Cline, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University, but it's close. In December of 1977, while testifying before a House committee investigating the relationship between the press and the CIA, Cline noted that perhaps all contact between the CIA and the media was being viewed as sinister because, "It is based on the assumption that at this time in history the first amendment of the Constitution is the main principle" around which all government business should revolve. "I got out the Constitution this morning," he said, "just to take a look, and while I am sure the committee doesn't need to be reminded, perhaps occasionally the press does—that first amendment is an amendment." He did allow, however, that the first amendment was "an important provision" of the Constitution.

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