

MAR 14 1973

NYTimes

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1973

## Galbraith Heard as Ellsberg Witness

By MARTIN ARNOLD

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, March 13—John Kenneth Galbraith, the Harvard economics professor, defined at the Pentagon papers trial today what in his view would constitute damage to the national defense.

"I should define it as damage that would lead to military casualties of some substantial importance," he said. "Oh, I think I would describe it in conventional terms: lost skirmishes, lost battles."

This contradicted one of the previous defense witnesses, Rear Adm. Gene LaRocque, retired, who had testified that nothing that did happen or could have happened in Vietnam could have damaged this country's national defense.

David R. Nissen, the chief prosecutor, then asked him under cross-examination to draw the line between "substantial" casualties and non-substantial casualties.

Mr. Galbraith, who is so tall that when he is sitting in a crowded room he appears from a distance to be standing, leaned forward in the witness stand and replied, "Many things cannot be defined, Mr. Nissen, but they still convey meaning."

### Third Ex-Kennedy Aide

He was the third former member of the Kennedy Administration to appear as a witness for the defense, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony J. Russo Jr., and, like the two others, he drew a packed courtroom. Yesterday, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. and McGeorge Bundy testified.

Damage to the national defense is one of the key issues in the case, because the Government, to prove the six counts of espionage against Dr. Ellsberg and Mr. Russo, must first prove that their actions

either damaged the national defense or were helpful to a foreign nation.

The defendants also are accused of one count of conspiracy and six counts of theft, but so far the main thrust of the defense has dealt with the espionage counts.

Mr. Galbraith, a former Ambassador to India, was asked by the defense to study three volumes of the Pentagon papers and to testify on them.

The volumes were "Strategic Hamlet Program, 1961-63"; "US-GVN Relations, 1963-67," and "US-GVN Relation, 1963-67, Part 2."

GVN stands for South Vietnamese Government.

Disclosure of any or all these volumes, he said under examination by Leonard Boudin, a defense counsel, would not have damaged the national defense nor been helpful to a foreign nation.

Of one of the volumes, he said, "I would have to say that anyone who had the patience to read it through would not have found it useful."

In fact, he added, "I do not think that had this been released contemporaneously it would have been damaging. Five years later, certainly, I think the information is harmless."

He also said that disclosure of the papers would not have "appreciably" affected conduct of national policy.

One of the defense contentions is that Dr. Ellsberg and Mr. Russo tried to disclose the Pentagon Papers to Congress so they could affect national policy on the Vietnam war.

After Mr. Galbraith's testimony, Melvin Gurtov, a member of the panel that put together the Pentagon papers, was called as the seventh defense witness.