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# Goldwater: A Booby Prize

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By BARRY GOLDWATER

WASHINGTON—There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that The New York Times will receive many journalistic awards for its publication of the Pentagon Papers on Indochina. After all, a scoop that runs a million and a half words is not exactly to be sneezed at in journalistic circles.

By the same token, I believe The New York Times deserves some kind of a booby prize for its failure to detect the intentions of the Johnson Administration during the Presidential campaign of 1964.

There was no doubt in my mind seven years ago that President Johnson intended to escalate the war against North Vietnam by bombing and by the possible use of American

ground troops. And the indications that such preparations were going forward were all over the place. I picked up indications that bombing sorties to the North were being planned and that troop shipments were scheduled in that period without even trying.

It is true that I had access to some classified information as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and as a major general in the Air Force Reserve. But it wasn't necessary to use classified material to figure out what was going to happen.

Logic alone should have told the people who put down all those erudite words on the page opposite to this one that L.B.J. or whoever was elected to the office of President had to follow one of two courses of action: either

to escalate the war and attempt to win it or withdraw completely from the Indochina theater of war. Logic also should have told those men who consistently accused me of being "ignorant" and "ill-informed" that the American people would not stand for a precipitous withdrawal from Vietnam at that time.

Consequently, it stood to reason that President Johnson would have to widen the war and that planning to this effect was already under way when the President was assuring the American people that nothing of this kind would happen if he were elected.

In the atmosphere that prevailed in 1964 I have a feeling that logic was not uppermost in the minds of people who were feverishly bent on the election of L.B.J. The New York Times, for example, stated on Sept. 24, 1964, that Goldwater did not inhabit "the same contemporary world" as Lyndon Johnson. This presumably was the conclusion reached by The Times because I chose to tell the American people the hard realities of what we were facing in Indochina.

Today I find that I do not inhabit "the same contemporary world" as The New York Times. And this is because I happen to feel that Government papers marked "secret" and "confidential" should remain secret and confidential until such time as the Government responsible for the material in such papers sees fit to declassify them or change the laws regarding the security of our nation.

I happen to be one of those who believes that too many Government papers are stamped classified and secret. I also believe that the authority to classify certain information has been abused by some administrations that desired to hide their own mistakes. However, I am not about to say that this tendency gives any newspaper editor who wants a license to decide on his own what is best for the security of 205 million Americans.

We live in a nation of laws, not a nation of men. When publishers and editors decide on their own what security laws to obey, I believe it puts them in the same category as those radicals who foment civil and criminal disobedience of laws they disagree with or for moral reasons.

The laws governing classification of Government papers were enacted to protect the majority of our people. They were not designed, as we have been led to believe in some cases, to thwart the journalistic enterprise of The New York Times, The Washington Post or anyone else who deals in the publication of information for public consumption.

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Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona was the Republican Presidential candidate in 1964.

1966: L.B.J. and Westmoreland at Camrarah Bay

