

# Ellsberg Is Gratified by Court's 'Great Decision'

By ROBERT REINHOLD

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 30 —Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who has said he gave the Pentagon papers to the press, praised the Supreme Court decision today as "a great one."

The 40-year-old former Defense Department official is under two indictments accusing him of theft and unauthorized possession of the documents. He gave an impromptu interview on the steps of his home here shortly after word of the decision was brought by newsmen.

He said that though the news startled him at first, he was not surprised "because they had a chance to read the documents."

"I am delighted to know that the Supreme Court judges that the American people have a right to know this information, that it is in their interest, and made it possible for the rest of the public to read what the judges have read."

Asked what effect the decision might have on his own case, he replied: "I am not worrying about my own case—I'm celebrating the Supreme Court decision."

Dr. Ellsberg—who was one of the authors of the Vietnam war-study of the Vietnam war—declared on Monday that he had released the documents as an act of civil disobedience to end the war, which he has vigorously opposed in recent

months. He was arrested that day and is free on \$50,000 bail pending a hearing on July 15.

Although Dr. Ellsberg has said he turned the Pentagon study over to the American press he has not mentioned any specific newspapers. The New York Times has refused to discuss the source of its material.

His legal position was still unclear today. Some lawyers had said it would be difficult to prosecute him if the Supreme Court upheld the newspapers, but the charge of theft of secret documents does not relate directly to the ban on prior restraint of publication—a prohibition that was upheld today by the Court. Dr. Ellsberg

could not be reached for comment. They have not disclosed what defense they plan, should he be brought to trial, but it is likely that they will argue that the materials in the documents do not affect national security.

Whatever the outcome, Dr. Ellsberg was in bright spirits this afternoon. He sent down soft drinks to reporters and cameramen waiting in the sweltering heat outside his home near Harvard University while he telephoned for details of the Court's decision.

He said he was optimistic about the democratic system, has become especially aware of the significance of separation of powers, he said, adding: "The country has been well served by an independent judiciary in the last couple of weeks."

Dr. Ellsberg, an economist who is a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is expected to hold a news conference here tomorrow.