

# Quotable . . .

## On the 'Pentagon Papers'

By **RICHARD P. KLEEMAN**  
Washington Correspondent  
Minneapolis Tribune

(In testimony in his role as national chairman of SDX's Freedom of Information Committee before the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information of the Government Operations Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, on June 25.)

• "What I think the responsible reporter or editor would say is that the judgment of the effect of what they might write or publish in a security-sensitive area is but one of many judgments they are constantly called upon to make in gathering, editing and publishing the news. What they do not want is a government — or a court — standing beside them saying, 'Print this — don't print that.' . . . The government has said in recent days that it sought to prevent damage that would be 'irreparable.' I think the question that those of us in the media must ask at this point is this: if a use of prior restraint should be vindicated, because some unpublished information is adjudged to be irreparably damaging, how soon will the next case occur? and the next? and the next? . . ."

By **HOWARD K. SMITH**  
Commentator  
ABC News

(In remarks broadcast June 23.)

• "One very good argument used by the newspapers these days of controversy is . . . the public has a right to know. Thus the publication of the secret Pentagon report. The trouble is the way the principle is being applied. The public, it appears, has a right to know only some selected things. We do not, for example, have a right to know who wrote that Pentagon report. Thirty-six people did. Their names are secret, we are told, lest their careers be harmed . . . If we are not to compound our mistakes about Vietnam the public needs urgently to know this: who are these people telling it like, they say, it was? What prejudices dictated their selection of documents? What axes to grind formed their interpretations? That, curiously, is deemed news that is not fit to print . . ."

By **LOUIS M. KOHLMEIER**  
Washington bureau  
The Wall Street Journal

(In The Wall Street Journal, July 2.)

• "But it (the court decision) was a narrow victory that may in the long run turn out to be of not much more than immediate significance. Indeed, an argument can be made that press freedom would have been better served had the whole episode not been brought before the courts . . ."

By **J. EDWARD MURRAY**

(In testimony in his role as vice president and president-elect of the American Society of Newspaper Editors before the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information of the U.S. House of Representatives, on June 25.)

• ". . . the most fundamental First Amendment issue raised by newspaper release of the McNamara papers is the right of the citizen to publish without prior restraint. . . . It is just this right of the editor, unrestrained by anyone else in the society, to select and publish news which is the fulcrum on which a free and open society turns. Without it, all the other machinery of freedom, which makes representative government viable and self-correcting, will come to a standstill . . . This right cannot be usurped by anyone, not even the President and not even members of the judiciary, including the Supreme Court . . . without nullifying the First Amendment."

By **RICHARD HARWOOD**  
Commentator  
The Washington Post

• "The substance and in some cases the precise details of virtually everything the Washington Post and the New York Times have printed from the Pentagon papers is ancient history. It was nearly all published while it was happening. And it was largely a futile enterprise, neither the public nor the congressional politicians were listening . . . On the contrary, it is obvious in retrospect that various factions in the administration were deliberately and consciously 'leaking' top secret plans and recommendations in order to build support for future U.S. actions . . ."

By **JOSEPH KRAFT**  
Columnist  
Publishers-Hall Syndicate

• "The Supreme Court's decision in the case of the Pentagon Papers has a lesson for all of us — that the case is not a landmark case. On the contrary, it is a freak, distinguished above all by special circumstances. And we all need to be careful about drawing sweeping conclusions as to the right state of relations between the government and the press . . . The right relationship . . . has almost nothing to do with the across-the-board confrontation of the Pentagon Papers case. The right relationship is delicate and subtle, varying in highly pluralistic fashion from man to man and time to time and episode to episode. An the maintenance of that kind of rapport counts much more than a fundamentalist assertion of supposed rights in fostering responsible government and an informed press."

By **JOHN S. KNIGHT**  
Editorial Chairman  
Knight Newspapers

(In "The Editor's Notebook," July 3.)

• "In a chilling hint of things to come, U.S. Solicitor Gen. Erwin N. Griswold is reported to have said after the court's decision: 'Maybe the new papers will show a little more restraint in the future.' . . . What we have seen here is not a landmark case, but precedent . . . the press in its euphoria may not be giving sufficient thought to the possibility that actually a precedent has been set for further or future restraints upon the right to publish . . . The press has indeed won a victory, but the issue will again be joined if I read the signs right."



"What's so 'top secret,' Dad? . . . I've been telling you that for years  
(Paul Conrad, Los Angeles Times)

By **CHARLES A. PERLIK JR.**  
President  
American Newspaper Guild

(In testimony before the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information of the House Committee on Government Operations, June 25.)

• "Today, our constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press faces its most serious challenge in memory, if not, indeed, in our history as a nation . . . the First Amendment's guarantee . . . was not intended to create a special privilege for newspapers and newspapermen but to ensure the public may be informed of what its government is doing in its name and be free to express itself thereon, for good or ill . . . Under our system of government, based as it is on a delicate system of checks and balances between legitimately contending interests, clas-

sification and publication must remain separate questions, however — the first regulated by law, the second protected by the First Amendment . . ."

By **HARRY REASONER**  
Commentator  
ABC News

(In remarks broadcast June 17.)

• "Nothing in the history of authoritarian governments leads us to expect probity or candor from them. It is quite different and legitimately disturbing to find that at a critical time in history our highest leaders were saying in effect: 'It would be madness to let the people decide on the basis of the facts. Therefore, we will deceive and dissimulate' . . ."

By **J. W. ROBERTS**  
Washington Bureau  
Time-Life Broadcast

(In testimony in his role as chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Radio-Television News Directors Association before the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information of the U.S. House of Representatives, on June 25.)

• "The Government has, in deciding to seek the injunction, done serious harm to the voluntary approach which has usually taken care of questions of news reports involving matters of national security. Even during World Wars I and II, journalists were left to make their own decisions as to what confidential material to make public. I don't see any existing threat to the national security equal to that of the days of World War II . . ."

## On 'The Selling of the Pentagon'

By **WALTER CRONKITE**  
Correspondent  
CBS News

(Speaking before the House Republican Communications Association in Washington, D.C., June 29.)

• "Wouldn't it be better if they (public officials) concentrated on attacking the problems rather than attacking the press? . . . Our making mistakes is inexcusable, but it is not as serious an offense as that committed by those who would draw red herrings across the trail to hide from the American people the scent of the truth . . ."

By **REUVEN FRANK**  
President, NBC News

(In a statement April 12.)

• "CBS's fight against producing out-takes under subpoena is the concern of everybody in news, and I wish that not only broadcast newsmen but those in other media recognized this better than they have. If the people we film or interview believe their words and actions will be a happy hunting ground for even the highest minded investigators, the flow of news will dry up, and the public itself will be the ultimate victim."

From **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**  
Editorial, July 15

• ". . . if CBS had lost, members of Congress and other government officials might have been encouraged to go much farther than they ever have in demanding to see newspaper reporters' notes, to make them reveal their confidential sources and so forth. . ."

By **CARL T. ROWAN**  
Syndicated Columnist

• "Stagers, Springer and other congressmen are within their rights to complain of what they think are errors, to attempt to call the public's wrath down upon an offending station or network. But the Constitution draws the line right there. And Heaven help the people if the day ever comes when the politicians are given the bullying powers over this powerful medium that some House members now seek to seize."

By **RALPH METCALFE (D.-III.)**  
U.S. House of Representatives

(In discussing his vote in committee in favor of the contempt citation to CBS.)

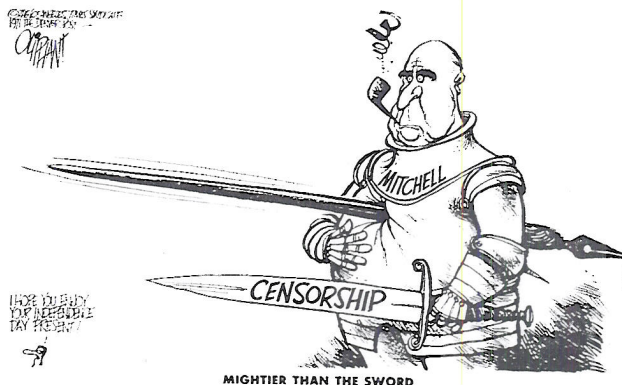
• "The press has a moral obligation to the public to tell the truth. And you and I know this doesn't always happen. Just look at the way they cover the City Council in Chicago."

By **JULIAN GOODMAN**  
President, NBC

• "'The Selling of the Pentagon' was a legitimate journalistic inquiry. If the furor that has resulted from it should cause even one reporter to be less diligent in pursuing the truth, the whole nation will suffer. Freedom of the press surely should mean that a reporter's background materials cannot be subject to scrutiny or review by a government agency. CBS is absolutely right in resisting this invasion of a basic, journalistic right."

By **FLORA LEWIS**  
Syndicated Columnist

• "Partly the trouble is in the eye of the beholders. Cronkite has long argued that there should be school courses in how to read a newspaper and how to watch television. The public also needs some assurance of truth in packaging broadcasts, not by congressional harassment but by television's own improved standard of ethics."



(Patrick Oliphant cartoon, Denver Post)