

Nixon's Concern in Case Said to Be Future Leaks

JUN 19 71

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 18—A high Administration spokesman says that President Nixon is more concerned that a precedent might be set for future disclosures of secret documents than he is over whether The New York Times endangered national security by publishing a Pentagon study.

The President's position was outlined to a small group of newsmen yesterday by Herbert G. Klein, Director of Communications for the Administration. Mr. Klein told the newsmen

that the President's principal concern in The Times case is to discourage officials opposed to the Vietnam war from giving other classified documents to the press.

The Administration has obtained a temporary court injunction—and is seeking a permanent one—to prevent The Times from publishing further articles and documents of a secret Pentagon study on United States involvement in the war. Three installments of the series were published early this week.

Times Not Invited

The Klein briefing—to which The New York Times was not invited—was held on a “background basis,” with those present told to attribute the remarks to “White House officials.”

The dozen or so newsmen were called about noon by a member of Mr. Klein's staff and invited to a “backgrounder” on The Times case in his office in the Executive Office Building.

One newsman present said that the briefing had lasted two and a half hours, with the first

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Nixon's Main Concern Reported to Be Future Leaks

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part of it devoted to a discussion by Administration officials of the President's proposed drug-abuse program submitted to Congress earlier yesterday.

"After what seemed an eternity, we finally get around to what we went there for, The Times case," the newsman said.

Several of those present confirmed that Mr. Klein stressed the President's concern over encouraging future disclosures of classified documents.

Mr. Klein repeatedly described the material on which The Times based its series of stories as "stolen goods."

Later in the briefing, however, John W. Dean, counsel to the President, suggested that it might be more appropriate to say that The Times had "unauthorized possession" of the documents.

Mr. Klein told newsmen that the attempt to halt publication of the Pentagon study in The Times should not be considered an attempt to stifle freedom of the press.

Meanwhile, Lieut. Gov. Lester G. Maddox of Georgia, in a statement yesterday, said that he felt The Times series should be resumed if it "proves that our political leaders have not been honest with the people."

He added, however, "If there is no dishonesty and the re-

lease of the information could jeopardize national security, then not another word should be printed."

George E. Reedy Jr., who was press secretary to President Lyndon B. Johnson, today defended the right of The Times to print the information in the Pentagon study.

Mr. Reedy said that he was unaware of any plans by the Johnson Administration to escalate the war in 1964, as reported by The Times, although he knew that something was going on. He was told to maintain the line that there had been no change in policy, he said.

"That's when I suddenly found life unbearable for me," he said.

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, said

yesterday in Sacramento, Calif., that the publication of the Pentagon study might jeopardize the effectiveness of the nation's intelligence system.

But the Senator, a potential candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said that The Times case indicated a need for a review of the nation's methods of classifying and protecting secret information so that only truly sensitive information is kept secret.

Senator Robert W. Packwood, Republican of Oregon, said yesterday that the Government's "embarrassment" over the publication of the study did not justify censoring the articles.

He termed the publication of the articles and the Government's attempt to halt it "one of the 10 biggest" events of the century.

In another development, Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, introduced a resolution today to authorize \$250,000 for a two-year study by the Foreign Relations Committee of the policies of the United States in Southeast Asia.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird, Representative John E. Moss, Democrat of California, demanded access to the 47-volume Pentagon study "in accordance with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act."

Mr. Moss said that under that act, which he helped draft, the burden for justifying withholding of government information rested "squarely on the agency seeking to withhold, and, in my opinion, your department has not offered any legitimate justification to date."

NYT
6-19-71