

7/8/71 Re Burchwood

Wmm:

Back in the 50s, the best
man in poultry in the
British got spent a
month in the U.S. going
to all the top breeding &
research inst. at that time. My
place was his first stop.

The regular farm he went to
in that interesting month.

In his report, his highest
indication of the most quality
& quantity of all the poultry
he saw was of mine. I
was shown a copy by the
British agricultural attache.

I'd like to have a copy for
use in my damage ~~report~~
sent to the Army. But
I don't have it.

It is classified!

H

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The Taste of Security . . . Or Is It Spinach?

By Art Buchwald

In dealing with the question of whether the New York Times was correct in printing excerpts from the top secret Pentagon report as to how we got involved in Vietnam, one must understand the entire question of classifying government documents.

To begin with, all branches of the government classify documents. The more classified documents a department has in its files, the more important it considers the work it is doing.

The lowest government classification for a classified document is LOU which stands for LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. This classification could be stamped on a document to announce a soft ball game, an office party, the vacation schedules of department heads, or what one must do in case of a nuclear bombing attack. (After the attack, report to your nearest post office and wait for instructions.) Almost anyone in the government family has access to LOU's, and you'll usually find mail-room boys reading them on elevators between deliveries of inter-office mail.

The next designation is CONFIDENTIAL which is really between LOU and SECRET. CONFIDENTIAL could have some security information in it (for example, not only would it give the time of the soft ball game,

Capitol Punishment

but who was pitching for the other side). Fewer people are allowed to see a CONFIDENTIAL memo than a LOU. (In the case of a nuclear bombing attack, a CONFIDENTIAL memo might tell you what to do if the post office wasn't there.)

After CONFIDENTIAL comes SECRET. A SECRET document is so categorized on a N to K basis. (Need to Know). Only those people who are actually involved in the project are supposed to have access to SECRET documents. They have an urgency to them that demands: "Deal with this before coffee break."

The next classification is TOP SECRET. It's hard for someone in the government to tell the difference between SECRET and TOP SECRET, other than when reading a TOP SECRET message your palms sweat more.

The final classification is LIM DIS, standing for LIMITED DISTRIBUTION. A LIM DIS is TOP SECRET with hair on it. The highest classification known publicly is LIM DIS FEO (For Eyes Only). If you get one of those it means you were in some way responsible for the nuclear attack. (See Paragraph 3 for this article.)

Now the important thing to understand is why people in the government classify their documents. Here is a scientific breakdown of reasons and percentages. The reason a paper is classified is—

- (1) To make the person who wrote the document look important—10 per cent.
- (2) To make the person reading the document think he is more important than he really is—10 per cent.
- (3) To keep secretaries and file clerks busy during slack periods—15 per cent.
- (4) To be on record in case someone ever calls you on a mistake someone else in the department made—10 per cent.
- (5) To make sure the press will take it seriously when the document is leaked to them—15 per cent.
- (6) To impress the public with your frankness when you declassify it—10 per cent.
- (7) To protect the person (or persons) who were responsible for making the mistake(s)—25 per cent.
- (8) National security—5 per cent.

What one must always keep in mind when dealing with something as dicey as the McNamara Pentagon report is that it may taste like national security to some people, but others say it's spinach and the hell with it.