

The six cases discussed briefly illustrate that Government agencies mistakenly classify information and deny it to the public. These are not the only cases that could be cited, but I believe the ones I have submitted amply demonstrate the need for vigilance on the part of congressional committees to review carefully all transcripts which contain classified information. If this is done then perhaps executive agencies, too, will exhibit greater awareness of the public's need to know and will exercise greater care in the future in the classification of testimony.

I would not want to end this statement without emphasizing that in most cases overclassification of information is not a deliberate effort to deceive the people or to protect the Government from criticism. Generally I think it is due to a habit of being overcautious, in other words to follow the rule to classify when in doubt.

DISARMAMENT SUBCOMMITTEE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN COOLIDGE REPORT
ON DISARMAMENT

Remarks of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Congressional Record,
June 2, 1960

Mr. President, many Members of the Senate will recall that in August 1959 the President announced that the executive branch was undertaking a full review of U.S. disarmament policy. A Boston lawyer, Mr. Charles Coolidge, was appointed to head a committee to conduct this review. The purpose was to enable the United States to be adequately and thoroughly prepared for forthcoming disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union and eight other countries to be held in Geneva, beginning March 15, 1960.

Throughout the disarmament debate at the 1959 session of the United Nations General Assembly the United States did not put forth any concrete arms control proposals on the grounds that a review was being conducted. The work of Mr. Coolidge was given special emphasis. Our Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, stated to the General Assembly: "As for the United States, President Eisenhower has recently set in motion a new and thorough review of disarmament in the light of present-day technology. This review will prepare us to participate fully and constructively in the deliberations scheduled for next year."

The report of the Coolidge group was awaited by many of us who have followed arms control problems and possibilities. I, myself, had the privilege of visiting once with Mr. Coolidge and hearing about his concept of his work.

Mr. Coolidge reported to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense early in January 1960. The comprehensive review had been completed. Some stories began to appear in the press. They were disquieting. The Coolidge Committee had been unsuccessful. The report was not usable. It said little about disarmament. It said a lot about rearmament. Mr. Coolidge was reported to have visited the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command and conferred for