

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

82-440312

Mr. William H. Gregory, Editor
Aviation Week & Space Technology
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Gregory:

In your 8 February issue you published, in lieu of an editorial, a viewpoint entitled "Classifying Science: A Government Proposal..And a Scientist's Objection." The first portion was an abstract from a speech I gave on 7 January before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the second was a rebuttal to my speech by William Carey of that Association. I am both surprised and dismayed at your presentation.

Your excerpts of my speech misled your readers and presented the material out of context. No one from your magazine asked my opinions on this matter prior to publication. I am left to assume that you obtained a copy and made a conscious decision to extract only what you believed to be relevant. Regardless, the excerpted portions placed undue emphasis on the "prior publication and prior research" review aspects of my speech without benefit of the high degree of emphasis I placed on solving this problem through a joint voluntary effort on the part of both the scientific community and the U.S. Government. As you will see from the full text of my speech which I have attached, the portions you chose to delete clearly support my thesis that a cooperative spirit among scientists and government officials has solved such problems in the past and can do so again.

My opinions on the subject were at best distorted by Mr. Carey. I neither advocated nor implied CIA censorship of scientific and technological information or research. Also, as you will note, Mr. Carey's claim that I advocate "open-ended CIA censorship"--or that of other intelligence agencies--is a total misrepresentation of my views. I certainly do not and have not suggested such one-sided CIA control. Neither do I (nor did I) suggest a Congressionally-imposed solution. I instead stressed the need for dialogue and for joint, cooperative action now by responsible U.S. citizens, in and out of government, before the loss of technological and scientific information so harms this nation that the Federal Government will be forced by public outcry to impose restrictions which may be overly restrictive and burdensome.

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I strongly believe that a retraction on the part of Aviation Week is in order so that your readers can become fully and accurately aware of my position on this issue. I ask that you print a clarification as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

B. R. Inman
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

cc: William D. Carey, Executive Officer
American Association for the
Advancement of Science

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