

SCHORR IS SOURCE OF LEAKED REPORT

CBS Newsmen Tells of Offer From Voice Publisher

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—Daniel Schorr, a Washington correspondent for CBS News, disclosed today that he had provided a copy of the secret report by the House Select Committee on Intelligence to The Village Voice, a weekly New York newspaper that published the document last Wednesday.

In a three-page statement released today, Mr. Schorr also said that an unnamed intermediary had relayed to him an offer from Clay Felker, publisher of The Voice, that a "substantial contribution" would be made to aid the work of the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press if The Voice received the document.

Mr. Schorr said that he felt an obligation to identify himself as the newspaper's source for the 338-page document because "misleading impressions" had been created in recent news reports about the means by which The Voice obtained the report.

'The Sole Possessor'

The CBS newsmen, who had covered the House committee's investigation for a year and who reported extensively on the panel's findings last Jan. 26, said that he reached his decision to arrange for the report's publication after he came to believe that he was "possibly the sole possessor of the document outside the Government."

The House committee voted to approve the report's publication, but the Full House of Representatives voted on Jan. 29 to withhold the report from the public after fears were expressed on the floor that the report contained sensitive information that would damage national security.

At that point, Mr. Schorr said, "I felt myself confronted with an inescapable decision of journalistic conscience," and eventually decided that, with much of the report's contents already disclosed in news accounts, "I could not be the one responsible for suppressing" its full publication.

21-Page Supplement

The Village Voice published the text of the report's highlight in a special 24-page supplement this week. Mr. Felker and Thomas B. Morgan, editor of the Voice, had previously declined to answer any questions about how the report came into their possession.

Mr. Schorr said today that, in arranging for the report's publication, he had enlisted the "confidential cooperation" of the Freedom of the Press, a Washington-based organization that attempts to defend journalists faced with legal problems in connection with their work.

He said that the unnamed intermediary approached various book publishers but found little interest in the report's publication, but then relayed to Mr. Schorr an offer from Mr. Felker that included a "substantial contribution" to aid the work of the reporter's committee.

Mr. Felker was said to be skiing in New England today and could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Felker previously told a reporter, however, that he had not paid anyone to secure the House report, and that any proceeds realized from its publication would be retained by The Voice.

Mr. Morgan said over the telephone that he did not feel that it was "appropriate" for him to say whether any money had been paid to the reporters' committee.

No Report on Payment

Robert Maynard, a columnist and editorial writer for The Washington Post and a trustee of the reporters' committee, said that, as of this morning, he had heard nothing about any payment received by his organization from Mr. Felker.

Mr. Maynard said that he believed that the committee had properly provided Mr. Schorr with the services of a lawyer in New York City, who he said subsequently served as the intermediary in arranging for publication, but that the entire incident had been "an unfortunate thing for us to have been involved in."

The following statement concerning Mr. Schorr was issued this evening by the reporter's committee:

"The Reporter's Committee for the Freedom of the Press agreed to accept from Daniel Schorr the proceeds, if any, from the publication, if it occurred, of the Pike committee report on the same terms as any donation to be used in defense of the First Amendment.

"We put Mr. Schorr in touch with an attorney familiar with publishing so that Mr. Schorr could make his own publication arrangements. Mr. Schorr said his plan was to have the report published in book form with an introduction signed by him and the arrangement with the reporters' committee would be known.

Decision Was Schorr's

"When he changed his plans there was simply no way that, after publication, Mr. Schorr could have expected that a committee of news reporters would not publicly confirm all the arrangements.

"There was no breach of confidentiality by the reporters' committee."

Mr. Schorr said in his state-

ment that the decision to offer the report for publication after its "highlights were extensively reported by CBS News," was "entirely mine."

Richard Salant, the head of CBS News, said today that the network had had no knowledge of Mr. Schorr's efforts, and CBS said in a statement that it would have no further comment on the matter because of the possibility of a Federal investigation of the circumstances surrounding the report's publication.

The network said that, because CBS news policy requires that none of its correspondents may report on a story in which that reporter is personally involved, "another correspondent will be assigned coverage of the House intelligence committee and the controversy surrounding the report."

William Small, vice president of CBS News, said: "As always, we will back our guy. Our immediate problem is to see that he's not punished for protecting a source. After that, we'll see whether there's something to talk about."

The House committee's investigation ended yesterday, but the CBS statement said that Mr. Schorr would continue to report on other aspects of ongoing investigations of the Central Intelligence Agency and related issues.

The network added that, "consistent with its long-standing practice," it would "support Mr. Schorr against any efforts to compel him to reveal his confidential sources in the acquisition of the report."

Jan 7. 87. Village Voice

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