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Chief, SF/D

REV 1/72

The D/OSR Dictionary, or a General Gyde to What to Travell Upward by Avoiding, Being a Useful Compendium of Words, Phrases, Marks, Styles, and Quaint Sayings Which at One Time or Another Have Gotten Someone in Trouble.

I. Words and Phrases

1. subscribers (to a radio net) and generally any word NSA likes, such as anomalies (in communications)
2. very, extremely, formidable, dramatic, modest, rather--or any other equally uninformative modifiers (E.B. White in Elements of Style calls very, rather, and little "leeches in the land of prose, sucking the blood of words.")
3. collateral--be specific (e.g., clandestine sources)
4. abort
5. undoubtedly--use "probably", "almost certainly" ("Always one of my least favorite words"--D/OSR, 8 Jul 69 and 2 Aug 70)
6. latter, former, respectively--must be used with "the greatest care," i.e., not at all
7. must--"must is not good intelligence writing" (D/OSR, 19 Feb 68)
8. to feel--use "to think" or "to know" or "to judge" or, possibly, "to believe"
9. Chicoms (even dirty red bastards is better)
10. subs--rates with Chicoms as unacceptable shorthand
11. should--"probably will" is preferred
12. ideally, as in "ideally suited"--use "well suited" (if you have to) or just "suited"

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13. greatly--"greatly=?" (D/OSR 24 Jan 69)
14. revealed--as in "photography reveals..."
15. classic--when standard or typical is meant
16. negated--as in "existence has been negated"
17. SSESS
18. in order to--"it is seldom necessary to say to make your point" (D/OSR, 6 Oct 69)
19. Few, several, some, many, most, and similar words expressive of indefinite quantities when a good hard number (or a range) could be used
20. Huge
21. ever increasing--"blech" (D/OSR, 1 Jun 70)
22. Med--for Mediterranean
23. "Likely" in an OSR title (e.g., "Likely Missions of...") (D/OSR 13 Dec 71)

II. Proscribed usage

1. while--when although is meant
2. However,--may not be used as first word of sentence
3. effected--accomplished is preferred
4. statute miles, without specifying
5. data as a singular noun--"In OSR, data are." (D/OSR)
6. vessels--for boats, ships, naval craft
7. dates as adjectives--write "the launch on 27 May" rather than "the 27 May launch" (Also on DDI list)
8. probable--do not write "probable missile launcher" when you can say "what probably is a missile launcher"
9. PI expressions--such as IIIC, IIID

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10. underlining names of ships--OCI does, but OSR does not
11. mid-1970s--use mid-Seventies
12. excessive use of acronyms (EUOA)
13. since, when because is meant--"Let's try to avoid this use of 'since', since I don't like it." (D/OSR, 1 Dec 69.)
14. split infinitives--"I am willing to allow that infinitives can be split with good effect. I believe, however, that is the rarer case." (D/OSR, 1970)

III. Punctuation

1. and/or
2. Excessive Capitalization (Too Damn Germanic)
3. all slants (e.g. Kuanchou/Shati) are out and/or prohibited/not used
4. semicolons are never used (except in a series)...
5. ...also true, of course, of exclamation points!!!

IV. Style

1. Long paragraphs
2. Long and muuddyie sentences
3. Passive voice
4. "It...that" constructions ("It is likely that"
"It is possible that")

V. Miscellaneous proscriptions

1. Clark (without an E).

Contributions welcome at any time.
Send to wherever he may be found.

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