AY CAN'T hide the body. The Army is never the wiser. When it tries to hide its mistakes from the Press, it comes out of these editorial skirmishes with a red face that the public remembers long after it has forgotten any explanation the Army is forced to make.—Lt Gen William A. Burrell, First Army CG, as quoted by the New York Times at the opening of the Army Information School.

"By hobbles" to means (the Press) in the front door and welcoming them, giving them what they want, you’ve got—

they will go out and write a good story. If you don’t let them in the front door, they will get in the back door or the side door and they will get half the facts. And if it’s a back door to start with, we will really have to keep that story in front of the public for two weeks while we hash out the details, trying to correct the misrepresentation that they gave the first time because you didn’t make facts available.—Maj Gen Gilman C. Mudgel, Army Chief of Information, same source, same occasion.

We heartily endorse their refreshing, common sense philosophy and their way of expressing it, as being as fully applicable to National Guard IGs and, for that matter, all National Guard commanders and staff officers, as to the Active Forces.

IT WOULD be just dandy if the Department of Defense and the Services would extend that philosophy to other fields. But it’s nullified by a "public be damned" attitude reflected in a new Regulation, circulating as an Executive Order intended to block the rubber-stamp-baby-happy charmers who are prone to slap a "Restricted," "Confidential," "Secret", or "Top Secret" on yesterday’s newspaper.

Abuse of security classifications as a means of covering-up blunders was a factor in abolishing the "Restricted" category—and the Army promptly upgraded thousands of documents instead of declassifying them. Now, in AR 380-1, "Safeguarding Official Information," it has invented new sinister-sounding terms: "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY," which may be used by any officer or warrant officer or "responsible civilian official" designated by the Army command or head of a military department, agency, or office; "Ostensibly, it’s designed to cover certain types of information listed in the Reg, but it’s worked so as to let virtually anyone hide anything he doesn’t want sized.

ONE REASON why the National Guard should be disturbed about this trend is that the new "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY" application applies specifically to "Preliminary documents relating to proposed plans or policy development when preliminary disclosure would adversely affect morale, efficiency, or discipline." We can be sure that the cover-up artists will stretch that "discipline" qualification to cover anything they want to keep buried from the public.

Plans and policies affecting the National Guard all-too-frequently are worked out in the Pentagon by those who fail to recognize the importance of citizen components affairs as well as by those who ignore civilians. and whose ignorance of civilian components affairs is matched only by their uncritical assumption that they know all of the answers. While publicizing publicly their admission for the National Guard and its accomplishments and proclaiming that we’re all on the same team, they recent and try to block National Guard participation in the framing of plans and policies that vitally affect us.

When the Army decided in April, 1957, under the act of March 3, 1879, that the United States made a great stride in forcing greater teamwork, by writing into the National Defense Act a provision that all policies affecting the Guard be cleared through a group of National Guard and Regular officers, commonly known as "the Section 5 Committee." Later, the same principle was applied to the Reserves, and extended to the Air Guard with Unification; still later, it was broadened at Department of Defense level with creation of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

But the "keep-it-dark" emphasis seems to appear around those provisions in two ways: 1—They muzzle the personnel of those committees and boards by flagrant abuse of the security classifications; 2—After having let career staff officers work full-time for weeks or months in the propa-

ganda of a complex policy instrument, they spring it on the part-time committee or board members on short notice. 24 hours’ notice and require action within as little as four hours.

So it is with the "New New Look" Reserve Program still, at this writing, being kicked-around in the Pentagon.

Present indications are that the details of this program, despite its probable great importance to the National Guard, may not be kept under the blanket until the Department of Defense is ready to spring it on Congress. Only then, it appears, will it be made public in general and the National Guard in particular—those who by knowledge and experience are the best fitted to deal with civilian components matters—be let in on the deep, dark secret plan. In other words, the approach is that it’s none of our business; the Regular Forces are to be operated, and we’re to keep to this immensely superior knowledge.

And, as usual, the completed plan then will have to be picked apart and rebuilt when the "bugs" come to light—

or be scrapped completely if it’s too bad. Many more hours of labor will have been wasted, that might have been saved had the National Guard been given full opportunity in framing a workable plan.

Considering that the National Guard has been in "business" for more than a century longer than any of the Regular Services, it’s amazing that the Regular Serv-

ces not only permitted but eagerly sought our views on plans involving citizen-soldiery. After all, that is our business.

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Tanks of California’s 40 Arm Div, with three M46s and a pair of M47s in the foreground, roll by in review at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation. The outfit, not long back from Korean War service, then in its old Inf Div role to take an Armed Forces on 1 July. (Photo by Latine.)