

Eisenhower Proposes New Security-Information Set-Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower proposed Wednesday a new security-information program which he said is intended to promote a freer flow of news from government to the people.

The President took the unusual step of making public the proposed text of an executive order before it goes into effect. The aim is to give the press and government officials time to study and comment on it.

Designed to replace a much criticized order signed by former President Truman in September, 1951, Eisenhower's plan would cut from 45 to 16 the number of federal agencies allowed to classify information as secret or of the security type.

And only heads of the sixteen remaining agencies—no underlings—could determine what information should be stamped for security.

Eisenhower told a news conference his decision to make public the proposed order before it actually goes into operation is in conformity with his ideas on giving people who are affected by an administration action a chance to talk about it in advance. He said he would not promise that any detailed changes which may be suggested will be accepted. But he said all comments will be considered.

The old Truman order gives other government departments and agencies handling parts of a security nature much the same powers of secrecy classification as the Defense and State Departments.

In a statement announcing he has distributed to all interested agencies copies of the proposed new order, Eisenhower said that it "will open the door for citizens to obtain more information about their government."

The whole question of a new order had been under consideration by Attorney General Brownell. Brownell wrote the President listing seven benefits he said the revision would achieve. He said it:

1. Withdraws from 29 agencies original authority to classify information.

2. Limits authority to classify to 16 additional departments and agencies to department heads alone.

3. Permits classification of information "only if required in the interest in the defense of the United States."

4. Eliminates the "restricted" category of classified material which Eisenhower called a catch-all.

5. Explicitly defines the three other categories — top secret, secret, and confidential — so as to prevent indiscriminate use of classification power.

6. Provides for reviews to remove classification or downgrade it when conditions permit.

7. Outlines more definite and certain procedures to make employees handling classified information "more alert to the dangers of unauthorized disclosures."

Eisenhower said in his statement the classification powers would be limited to heads of these 16 agencies:

Civil Aeronautics Board, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Department of Interior, Department of Labor, Federal Communications and Federal Power Commissions;

National Science Foundation, National Security Training Commission, Panama Canal Co., Post-office Department, Reconstruction Finance Corp., Renegotiation Board, Subversive Activities Control Board, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

The broader Truman list takes in even such agencies as the American Battle Monuments Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts and the Veterans Education Appeals Board along with others which come somewhat closer to matters affecting the defense of America.

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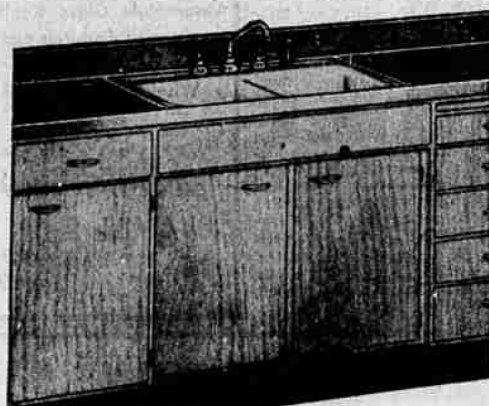
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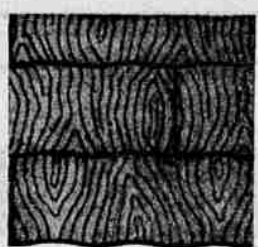


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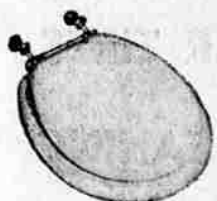
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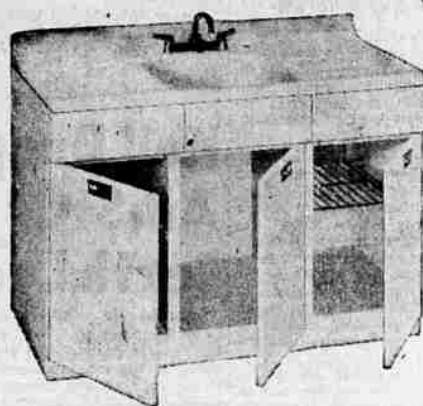
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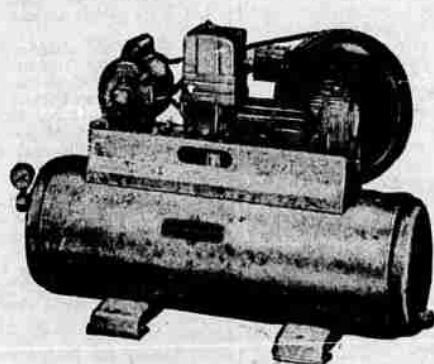
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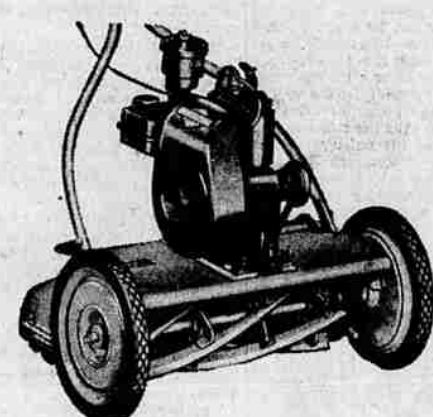
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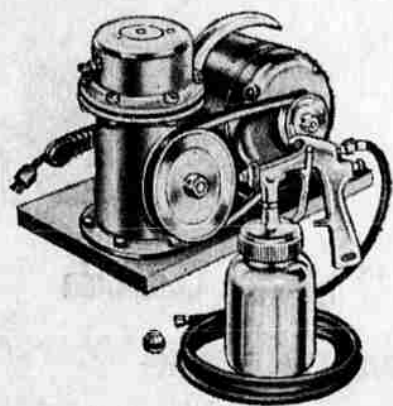
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