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other senior officials.

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the doctrine to the internal decision-making process of

Explaining this concept only heightens its absurdity.

the Government is absurd. Any theory which, as a matter

On the one hand, it assumes that senior officials should be

of doctrine, places elected officials on the periphery of

shielded from the truth to enable them to deny knowledge if

the decision-making process is an invitation to error, an

the truth comes out. On the other hand, the concept assumes

abdication of responsibility, and a perversion of democratic

that senior officials must be told enough, by way of double

government.

talk, to grasp the subject. As a consequence, the theory

(b) The Dangers of Using "Circumlocution" and

fails to accomplish its objective and only increases the

"Euphemism"

risk of misunderstanding. Subordinate officials should des-

According to Richard Bissell, the extension of plausible

cribe their proposals in clear, precise, and brutally frank

denial to internal decisionmaking required the use of cir-

language; busy superiors are entitled to and should demand

cumlocution and euphemism in speaking with Presidents and

no less.

Euphemism may actually have been preferred--not because

[Handwritten annotation: "doesn't necessarily"]

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