

# We're Undecided Now, So What're We Gonna Do?

Nobody asked but ...

Reading, or listening to another audio book as written by James Bamford, *Body of Secrets* (subtitle: Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency, from the Cold War through the Dawn of a New Century). This is a belated follow-through on a published citation from Radley Balko. I recommend the book highly both for the content on the stated subject, but more importantly for me, the implications about the basic nature of the state and its bureaucracy. Sometimes Bamford supplies a heavy load of detail, but I honestly could not omit any of them.

This is a paraphrasing of Bamford's account of the NSA during Nixon's years — Nixon issued a directive approving of the most aggressive delineation of the USA's meddling powers. Some such as the NSA were delighted because it reinforced what they were already doing, while others such as the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover were outraged because it revealed what they were already doing. Five days later AG Mitchell talked Nixon into rescinding the directive as problematic under the Constitution. Most in the cloak and dagger community were unaware of either directive. Why? Bureaucrats and their bureaus are born out of the spoils system, not out of concepts of good governance. The ideation of any plan is to serve a special interest, to intervene where we have previously chosen, through logic or care or neglect, NOT to intervene. Write it down!

The concern arises that 99 and 44/100ths% of the agenda of agencies are out of the control of anyone. There is a "set it and forget it" syndrome with them all. I have been in close proximity to the state, man and boy, for over 7 decades (haven't we all, for varying lengths of time?), and I have never seen a bureau go out of existence. Please tell me I am wrong, please, I beg you. Though many instruments of the rulers are obsolete, they are no longer connected to their founding justification, and/or were never connected to their founding justification.

Obviously, the chief attribute of any society of human beings is to foul its own nest.

— Kilgore Forelle