

Top Secret and Yours for the Taking

by Tim Aiken

In several press releases recently, CSIS has tried to explain what has happened to some of their most sensitive files. They were stolen from an agent's car while attending a hockey game. Soon the explanation of the events was released. Three drug addicts had stolen them and probably threw them in a dumpster. Well that just puts our minds to rest now doesn't it? It all worked out for the best. The files were stolen, but later disposed of. Well let's think about this for a minute.

With no leads to go on how could they know it was three drug addicts? A better question is without recovering the files how could they know that they were thrown in a dumpster? If this wasn't CSIS telling us this, I might start

to get suspicious that someone was playing a game of make believe. What really gets me is this: what would possess someone to steal a file if they couldn't recognize the value in it? Not that a lot of people worldwide even care about what CSIS is doing, but someone would buy that for general interest sake. If these were thieving drug addicts then wouldn't you think that they might try to sell it so they could get their next hit? Could CSIS be involved in such a misrepresentation of the truth in an

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attempt to cover up their mistakes? Like in 1995 when a clearly marked disk was found in a Toronto telephone booth. The disk was given to a reporter who returned it to CSIS. This event just came to light a few days ago. About

four years later, they finally fess up. This disk had the same type of information as the recently stolen file. This type of behavior should send a message to all of us. If CSIS has got some dirt on you, don't worry, just wait awhile. They will be sure to misplace your file. Sure everybody makes mistakes, but these are highly qualified individuals who are paid to be secret agents. One key part to being a secret agent is to not let anyone know your secrets. CSIS has twice failed in this regard. In Canada this type of

thing doesn't seem to be the rarity that

we believed it to be just a few days ago. In British Columbia, thieves stole some RCMP files and then later sold them to a biker gang. With CSIS and the RCMP giving up information this readily we are in for one hell of a future. Two counts of losing vital information due to nothing but carelessness.

When we talk of freedom of information that's not what we had in mind. **END**

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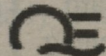
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