

ANNEX "B"

Words and phrases appearing on this list are widely used in the department; most of them could be happily abandoned. They are trite or illiterate or vulgar and some of them are all three.

Overall. The word is overworked, usually unnecessary and often quite silly. Consider overall target, overall picture, overall plan, overall thinking, overall purpose, and even overall gross national product, and overall contributions to the Community Chest. This word should be banned except in its proper use, for example, in reference to the overall length of a ship (as distinct from the water-line length).

Consensus of opinion. A consensus is a sharing of opinion, so that, in this popular phrase, we share an opinion of opinion, analogous to the River Rio Grande.

Psychological moment. This is an illiterate and ignorant misunderstanding of a phrase invented by Nietzsche in a long treatise on poetic inspiration, which he attributed to the thrust or the urge or the momentum of the soul. (Psychologisches momentum) To use this phrase in reference to something which happens opportunely as, for example, the arrival of a passing wrecking-truck three minutes after your car has gone into a ditch, is wrong. However fortunate this coincidence might be, there is nothing psychological about it.

In many cases. This phrase is much overworked, occasionally with ludicrous effect, "We have already had many cases of Canadian girls arriving with improper identification documents"; "In many cases the film board has been able to establish commercial outlets". It would be better to write "often" or "frequently". Cognate with this is the widespread use of "in the case of". To write, "In the case of Britain, unemployment is certain to increase", is inferior to "As for Britain.....".

By the same token. This seems to be some kind of filler, though what it means is obscure.