

Ethics

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3/18/24

Whistle blowing is something that every single government has to deal with at some point. Under most circumstances the government frowns upon whistle blowers. Whistle blowers hold the government accountable and by doing that it makes the government pay for the crimes they commit. In the case of Manning there was no other choice but to leak government documents. When a person is in the face of the murder of civilians done by the US government, and the systematic sweeping under the rug that takes place within the military. Witnessing any crime, even ones done by the United States government, it is any person's duty to report it, and that is exactly what Manning did. I will argue using the works of Vanderckhove and Oxley and the Contratarian ethical model not only was it a good thing that Manning blew the whistle, but they were fulfilling their end of their social contract.

Looking into the work of Vanderckhove they make a very good point. The relationship between an employer and the person they employ. There should be an understanding of how loyal the employee is to the company that the person comes up with on their own. When it comes to someone in the military like Manning there is a connotation associated. Someone is “serving their country” they feel an obligation to blindly follow what they say in the military. It makes it hard for people to think for themselves considering anyone can join the military right out of highschool and get indoctrinated into the same thinking as in the military. This is where Manning did a great thing. She understood the level of social contract she wanted to be under and had a moral line that got crossed. This can be related to contractarian ethical theory. Manning has a social contract she decided to follow in order to appease her morals. When the United States government killed innocent civilians Manning decided to enact her contract and leak the documentation of the event. THis is morally right and just as she fulfilled her duty in holding a power much greater than herself accountable and allowing the United States citizens to see the

war crimes their government has committed. The contractarian method of thinking allows for a social duty to outweigh that of a professional duty. Manning may have felt a sort of psychological contract done with the army. There is also a separate one done with the citizens that she is designated to protect as someone in the military should do. Understanding and weighing whether she should protect her employer or help people is a key factor in whistle blowing. There is an inherent obligation someone should have to look out for their employer. For instance when someone turns in a two weeks notice to an employer. They are looking out for them in a sense allowing for the company to take the necessary measures before the person leaves the company. This sense of loyalty can be betrayed when an entity does something bad like the government killing people that is what leads to whistle blowing. Manning did a good thing by making sure that those people that were killed received some sort of justice for what happened to them. Using the contractarian belief what Manning did was a good thing and she helped a lot of people by alerting them instead of being a government dog.

Oxley offers great points as well about how loyalty should be a side effect of the company caring for a person. In Terms of how the company should act it is laid out fairly clearly. Companies should recognize this loyalty and provide some form of recognition for it. Companies should also ensure that their employees feel supported and valued. Additionally, companies should ensure that their employees are properly trained and well-equipped to do their jobs. The way companies should work is creating an open and transparent culture, where employees feel that they can communicate openly and honestly. There should also create an environment where employees feel that they are making a valuable contribution to the success of the company. This is not the case for the US government. When it comes to whistle blowing for a war crime the government did nothing to make the soldiers feel important enough to belong

and thus broke the idea of care making loyalty. Companies should also ensure that their employees have access to resources that will help them do their jobs better. Using contractarianism the contract should be filled on both sides of the isle. If a company wants the employee to be loyal the idea of treating the employee well should be the first priority. So both sides fill their end of the contract. FOrcing people to commit war crimes makes the contract void and the soldiers have every right to whistleblow. Whistleblowing is a crucial mechanism for holding the government accountable, especially when it comes to war crimes. It allows individuals to expose wrongdoing and ensure that justice is served. In such cases, loyalty should not be expected or demanded, as the priority should be to uphold ethical standards and protect human rights. Thus, whistleblowing becomes a necessary act to fulfill the higher purpose of justice and integrity. Whistleblowing should be encouraged and protected by institutions, as it helps to maintain ethical and professional standards. Whistleblowing is also beneficial to the public, as it ensures that governments and other powerful organizations are held accountable for their actions. It is also essential for the protection of whistleblowers, who are often subjected to retaliation for their actions. Protection should be in place to ensure that whistleblowers feel safe and are able to exercise their rights without fear of repercussions. This is a part of contractarianism. The soldiers are doing a public service.

Overall manning did a very good thing. Holding the government accountable is essential to the job of a soldier. It falls in line with contractarianism. Manning fulfilled her social duty to the public by exposing the government. Whistleblowing is a noble thing that helps hold the government accountable. Oxley outlined the contract between the employee and employer and how when the employer cares for that employee it grows loyalty. Vanderckhove outlines how

employees should not blindly follow companies orders. Manning took this to heart and held the government accountable for a horrible crime.

References

Julinna Oxley and D.E. Wittkower, "Care and Loyalty in the Workplace," in Applying Care Ethics to Business.

Vandekerckhove, W.; Commers, M.S.R., "Whistle Blowing and Rational Loyalty."