

of Federal Government agencies with a view to seeing whether their responsibilities are being discharged in a manner which provides optimum protection of this right.

As FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover stated so well last December:

We must demonstrate that the freedoms Americans cherish so highly are strengthened whenever law enforcement asserts itself not only in crime and subversion but also against any invasion upon the rights and dignity of all the people.

At the end of the 88th Congress, this special inquiry had developed information on several specific operations of Federal Government agencies of sufficient importance that it was felt that committee hearings were needed to complete the picture. The purpose of this hearing today and future hearings is to elicit facts and informed opinion for the record to complete the committee's study of the particular subjects which had been partially developed during the last Congress and to permit the committee to make findings, draw conclusions, and submit recommendations.

The matter of protection of the individual's right to privacy and the Government's responsibility therein is one with which I am personally deeply concerned. I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to present some of my own thoughts, although I realize that as the record is made more nearly complete and further study given to it, compelling arguments may be adduced which could cause modification of some of these views. I will, naturally, keep an open mind.

The right to privacy has been under such strong attack in recent years that the American people are now waking up to the fact action must be taken to restore life to the fourth amendment to the Constitution, or the freedom it gives may be lost forever.

During World War II and the Korean conflict, most Americans were willing to set aside objections to Government intrusion into their lives in the interest of combating the totalitarian threats of fascism and communism.

But security consciousness has become such a part of our way of life that it now goes far beyond the original effort to ferret out subversives and protect the Nation's military secrets. The demands to invade the privacy of our citizens have multiplied over the years and we find examples of such prying in almost every facet of our lives.

Wiretapping has been a problem for years and continues to be. The discredited lie detector has become a tool of industry as well as government. The suitability check, once mainly the concern of sensitive Government agencies, has become an accepted employment practice in many private companies. Advancements in electronics have given new weapons to snoopers of all kinds who feel they must have an intimate look at the innermost secrets of our people. Their motivations vary and may even be good, but dark dangers lurk in their conviction that somehow they have the absolute right to know these things. Now the magic of computers is helping them gather such a wealth of information from such a variety of sources that all of us may someday stand psychologically naked.

Today man's home or castle, his traditional bastion of privacy, is in danger of becoming a fishbowl, no longer so well protected from prying eyes and ears. Man's mind—the private vault of his ideas, opinions, and thoughts—is more than ever under psychological and electronic assault.