

You had to live—did live, from habit that became instinct—in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard * * *.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Horton.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate you on your statement. I think it is a blueprint for the action of this special inquiry. It is very succinct in summing up the problem that is before us.

Mr. Chairman, it is an honor to have been selected to serve with you and our friend, Mr. Rosenthal, on this inquiry panel.

I believe our examination of certain investigative processes and procedures of the Federal Government, particularly as they bear on possible violations of the Constitution's guarantees of individual rights, is especially timely. There is mounting evidence all around us of snooping into the lives and affairs of American citizens to a frightening degree.

I believe there are many examples of officially sanctioned privacy violations. Further, technological advances in the science of snooping have progressed so rapidly that intensive surveillance often is possible without the slightest knowledge of the subject.

There is one critical area with which I know our special inquiry plans to concern itself. That takes up the investigation of those citizens either applying for or already employed by the Federal Government.

We accept without question that our Nation is involved in many pursuits that cannot be discussed in any detail for to do so is to compromise precious strategic values and national security. Therefore, those who are employed to deal with these matters must be trustworthy to an unquestioned extent. Establishing this standard often involves a personal evaluation which lays bare every facet of the individual's character. Yet, it is essential.

However, most Federal employment is not in these highly classified or supersecret areas. Most civil servants are employed in occupations that are comparable to private industry or the professions of this country. They may—and do—have special responsibilities, because public office is a public trust, but they should not be subjected to the critical examination many agencies are using.

My specific references are to personality tests which ask scores of embarrassing questions about the personal habits of the subject. My references also are to mail covers, wastebasket snooping, telephone taps, and surveillance. Many Federal employees work under situations of constant harassment from one-way mirrors in washrooms and peepholes in work areas.

These are areas demanding our attention. Let's look into these practices and quiz their originators. Let's find out what if anything in the form of better Government comes from this peering and probing, this snooping and surveillance.

Throughout our special inquiry, I am sure, we will be mindful of Madison's statement about the great inquiry which was the beginning of democracy: that we are securing the public good and private rights. Mr. Chairman, I believe that among these private rights is the right to be private.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Horton, for your remarks, and your gracious words.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Rosenthal.