

I think it is the same type of activity that characterizes some of the intrusive action in colleges and universities. This is a society now in which everyone wants to ask more and more questions of everyone else and I am afraid that I am a member of an academic band, so-called social scientists, which has helped bring this about. That is in studying human behavior, if you are to get behind theory, you have to have some data, you want hard facts, and how you get those, is either by observing, the way individuals and groups act, or you ask them questions to see what they can tell you about the way they act, and their motivation and so on. I don't think that as a group, we have been guilty of the worst intrusive behavior, but there have been some instances where people, it seems to me, have shown bad judgment or really go too far because they want to know. They want the answer and they didn't think about the privacy aspect of what they were doing.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Looking down the road, where do you see these trends taking us and is there anything that Congress can do to discourage this, or anything that the President can do, by Presidential proclamation to these agencies?

Mr. BEANEY. If I may echo the thought that was expressed in the introductory statements, which were really excellent, it seemed to me, negated any need for me to come and tell you things you already know. That is, that the Federal Government is the great exemplar.

You won't get a private institution or private individuals to think there is anything wrong with intrusive behavior if they can point to one or more Federal agencies which indulge in the very same practices. The Federal Government can be the great teacher and so I think that if, on the basis of a careful study of practices in all the agencies, and I would like you to stress good things as well as those things that might seem rather negative, then it would seem to me in various ways, either the statutes which give the agency power can be amended to prevent this, or I suspect, in many instances, the agency officials will, on their own volition, say that it is perhaps an undesirable practice, the same way that the Postmaster General recently did, which I agree is a very heartwarming action on his part.

I think we need this kind of a careful inventory of the status of privacy claims and activities that impinge on privacy in the Federal Government, and that can serve as a model for State governments, for cities, and for private investigations of all kinds. It is very difficult for private persons to do this kind of investigation, wholly apart from the resources. There is no reason why governmental agencies should—

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Cornish had questions he wanted to ask.

Mr. CORNISH. Dr. Beane, I was quite interested in your comments on the social scientist, which prompts me to ask you this question. I gather that you feel by virtue of being a social scientist, this does not give any particular license to invade privacy. I will tell you why I ask that question. Frequently we find in checking with Federal agencies on these matters, that their defense is that they are conducting some sort of study of human behavior and because it is a purely scientific purpose, they somehow feel this exempts them from the charge they are invading individual privacy. I would like to get your thoughts on that.

Mr. BEANEY. I think this is a very dangerous line of reasoning to invoke the name of science for this kind of intrusive behavior. It is