But even more than that I would raise a question as to whether we could not have limited this to members of the farm family, rather than the farm household.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I personally feel that would be more desirable.

Mr. ECKLER. Yes.

Mr. GALLAGHER. It might even keep a fellow's monthly board at a steady rate rather than the farmer finding out he could pay a little more.

Mr. ECKLER. Yes.

Mr. GALLAGHER. But over and above the issue of privacy, Mr. Randall, what happens in the Agriculture Department on this type of thing?

Do you rely on the Bureau of the Budget to check out this type of policy or review it?

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Chairman, our involvement in this situation starts with our suggestions as to the kinds of data that we would like to have collected in the census of agriculture.

Our interests specifically in this off-farm income is a result of requests from our administrators and from others for this kind of estimate. We participate in a Department-wide review of all the suggestions that are made for questions to be included in the census of agriculture, and the result of this consideration in the Department then goes to the advisory committee that Mr. Taeuber mentioned, for consideration there.

Our primary interest is consideration of how badly we need the data in relation to other types of data that are being requested, since there is always a need in the mind of at least some person for several times the amount of data that can actually be included in the census questionnaire.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You rely on the advisory commission and the advisory commission relies on the Bureau of the Budget to review this.

I am wondering whether or not we could in fact reverse the procedure, so that you people yourselves have this uppermost in your minds, along with the necessity of obtaining data.

I am wondering whether or not we could enlarge the advisory committee to include a person whose main function would be to serve as a watchdog on matters involving invasion of privacy. I'm thinking of someone with one of the bar associations, knowledgeable on this problem, or a university professor.

Mr. RANDALL. From the Department's point of view, I see no reason why this could not be done, Mr. Chairman, but I do not want to leave the impression that the Department is completely unmindful of the question of privacy.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Oh, no, the special inquiry is aware of this.

What the special inquiry objects to frankly is allowing a little too much room for shifting or, rather, allowing the responsibility to repose in the Bureau of the Budget on matters relating to privacy.

As a Member of the Congress, I would think that the Bureau of the Budget has all kinds of other problems. I see now they are even going to try and balance the budget this year, so you know they are not going to have much time for that sort of thing.

So the special inquiry feels that you are trying to do a fine job in this, but there are a few holes and this is one of them. One of the