

# SPECIAL INQUIRY ON INVASION OF PRIVACY

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1965

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVASION OF PRIVACY  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 2203, Rayburn Office Building, Hon. Cornelius E. Gallagher (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Cornelius E. Gallagher, Benjamin S. Rosenthal, and Frank J. Horton.

Also present: Norman G. Cornish, chief of special inquiry; Miles Q. Romney, associate general counsel, Government Operations Committee; and J. Philip Carlson, minority professional staff.

Mr. GALLAGHER. The subcommittee will come to order. The Chair has an opening statement to make before Dr. Ianni will testify.

Today's hearing is a continuation of a study by the special inquiry of the House Committee on Government Operations on the subject of invasion of privacy as it is related to certain investigative and data-gathering activities of the Federal Government. At our previous hearings, we examined the use of personality tests and questionnaires by Federal agencies in the employment picture. Two of our witnesses today intend to address themselves to that same matter.

However, the special inquiry also is interested in the use of personality tests and questionnaires in federally financed research activities. This is an equally important matter.<sup>1</sup> Our investigation of this subject shows that such tests have been given to hundreds of thousands of school children and college students across the country as a part of research projects sponsored by the Federal Government. Sometimes they are given to a vast sample involving half a million youngsters in many States, such as in Project Talent. In other cases, they are limited to certain regions, States, school districts, and individual schools.

The tests also vary in nature. Some are very intrusive in that they ask young people to answer intimate questions about their families, sex experience, religious views, their own personal values and other matters normally regarded as solely the private business of the individual. Others ask personal questions but attempt to keep invasion of privacy at a minimum. In some cases, parents are made aware of this testing and their permission and cooperation are actively sought. But in other cases, they have no knowledge whatsoever that their children are being asked such questions.

Staff investigators of the special inquiry have examined a number of these projects to determine whether Federal agencies are giving ade-

<sup>1</sup> See article entitled "Privacy and Behavioral Research" reprinted from the Columbia Law Review, November 1965, on p. 359 of the appendix.