

Mr. Chairman, the reply was dated August 27, 1965, addressed to the Honorable Cornelius E. Gallagher, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. GALLAGHER: Thank you for your August 6 letter about provisions to guarantee protection of individual privacy in research projects financed through the Office of Education. May I say that we agree with you on the importance of these safeguards and controls to assure that the rights of the individual are protected.

We are now in the process of incorporating such provisions in the instructions for making application for support from our Bureau of Research and also in the grant and contract instruments. These seem to be the most appropriate ways to assure that researchers and school authorities are aware of problems related to possible invasion of privacy when they develop their proposals and also that the matter is given further attention at the time agreements are drawn.

I am pleased to know that your investigators found our staff helpful and assure you of our continuous cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

FRANCIS KEPPEL,
U.S. Commissioner of Education.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I think the result, which is being made public for the first time, is a major advance. I might say I am delighted that Dr. Francis Ianni, who is Acting Associate Commissioner for Research of the Office of Education, is our first witness. Dr. Ianni played an instrumental role in the adoption of these new policies. I think the Congress and the American people owe both Dr. Ianni and Commissioner Keppel a vote of appreciation.

In accordance with the rules of the inquiry, I would ask you to be sworn, Doctor.

Whereupon, Dr. Francis Ianni was called as a witness and, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

TESTIMONY OF DR. FRANCIS IANNI, ACTING ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR RESEARCH, OFFICE OF EDUCATION; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. HERBERT CONRAD, PROGRAM EVALUATION OFFICER FOR THE BUREAU OF RESEARCH

Mr. GALLAGHER. Doctor, you have a statement?

Dr. IANNI. Yes. I have with me also, Dr. Herbert Conrad, Program Evaluation Officer for the Bureau of Research, and he is the chairman of our committee which looks over proposals when they come in with questionnaires.

Mr. GALLAGHER. We are delighted to have you with us.

Dr. IANNI. Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee on Government Operations, in a letter of August 27 to the Honorable Cornelius E. Gallagher, chairman of the special inquiry of the House Committee on Government Operations, Commissioner Francis Keppel briefly expressed the position of the Office of Education regarding the "protection of individual privacy in research projects financed through the Office of Education." The purpose of the present statement is to restate and amplify this position.

The Office of Education recognizes the essential need to protect the public against questionnaire items which needlessly infringe on individual privacy. Both preventive and remedial measures have been in effect in our research program to eliminate such questions. We are presently adding additional steps to strengthen these measures. Preventively, instructions will be included in announcements to