

subjects attached to the data, and there is no reason why this same ethical sense of the confidentiality, or the privacy, of the data cannot be extended to other forms of publication. Thus, it should be part of the responsibility of the research scientist not to make his research data, in which individuals are identifiable, available to others, whether such others be personnel directors, private detectives, police officers, journalists, government agents, or even other scientists.

Assuredly, one can visualize situations in which the release of research data for a use not initially contemplated would, because of the great public interest involved, be socially tolerable. But, just as certainly, it is possible to visualize situations in which it clearly would not. In the latter category, for example, obviously falls the sale of personal information to commercial organizations for subscription or mailing lists.

In determining the proper limits to be placed on the availability of research data, a workable proposition may well be to confine such data to the particular research purpose for which permission was initially obtained, or to a reasonably equivalent purpose. At the least, such a proposition might be accepted as an operative rule in the absence of persuasive considerations to the contrary. Of course, it must be recognized that as an individual may consent to an initial privacy invasion, so may he waive a limitation of that consent to the original research purpose. Care must, however, be taken in such instances not to imply a waiver in situations where it may not have been intended.

As in other affairs, there is, unquestionably, a happy mean between excessive privacy and indecent exposure in behavioral research. One way to begin to establish such a mean is for the behavioral scientists themselves to demonstrate, by codes of ethics and research standards, their own acute sensitivity and concern for the problem. Psychologists have made a start on an enforceable code of ethical standards directed primarily to the client relationship.⁶⁴ Other disciplines can learn from their example and all can extend such codes more broadly to behavioral research.

VIII. AN ETHICAL CODE

From the foregoing there emerges an outline of the contest between the values of privacy and those of behavioral research. The community is sensitive to both values. Our society will support, and indeed, will insist on, a decent accommodation between them. An accommodation which takes into account the ethical and legal obligations of the investigating scientist can be achieved without diminishing the effectiveness of the scientific inquiry. Scientists who are responsive to the claim of privacy will find themselves pressed to develop

64. See *Ethical Standards of Psychologists*, 18 AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST 56 (1963).