

the area of personnel data control. But their development is an absolute precondition to the establishment of any projects such as that before us today. I think I speak for the chairman and for my colleagues in stating that we will tolerate no unnecessary intrusions into the privacy of American citizens, regardless of their source and nature.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Horton.

**STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK HORTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Chairman, the mission of this subcommittee, investigating instances of individual privacy invasion caused by or contributed to as the result of Federal Government action, is important and timely. Clearly, our experiences and endeavors of the past year, have proved this point. And I feel your exposition of the subcommittee's work sets forth with special significance the wisdom of Chairman Dawson in chartering this subcommittee.

Privacy, as a fundamental freedom of the American citizen, is an unquestioned constitutional right. That this subcommittee, through examination and exposure, has curbed a brand of overzealousness on the part of certain Government agencies to overlook this right in personality testing is a notable example of the inherent protections to be found in our Federal system of checks and balances.

As significant as those earlier hearings were, I have become convinced that the magnitude of the problem we now confront is akin to the changes wrought in our national life with the dawning of the nuclear age. Proposals to gather in one central location or in one giant data bank all the information which Federal agencies amass on the citizens of this country are sufficiently filled with possibilities for privacy invasion that I believe it is eminently proper for our subcommittee to conduct this investigation.

These data bank concepts are a product of modern technology. Today the computer is a central figure in our society. The increasing rate at which it will change our lives exceeds the imagination, exceeds even the imagination of the computermen who foster it. Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, dean of science at MIT and former science adviser to President Kennedy, has said.

The computer, with its promise of a millionfold increase in man's capacity to handle information, will undoubtedly have the most far-reaching social consequences of any contemporary technical development. The potential for good in the computer, and the danger inherent in its misuse, exceed our ability to imagine \* \* \*. We have actually entered a new era of evolutionary history, one in which rapid change is a dominant consequence. Our only hope is to understand the forces at work and to take advantage of the knowledge we find to guide the evolutionary process.

We will be fortunate if we are able to keep these processes "evolutionary" and not "revolutionary."

Assuming the best for a moment, let us regard our computer systems as good and fair and the computermen behind the console as honest and capable. Even in these circumstances, there is danger that computers, because they are machines, will treat us as machines. They can supply the facts and, in effect, direct us from birth to death. They can "pigeonhole" us as their tapes decree, selecting, within a narrow range, the schooling we get, the jobs we work at, the money we can earn and even the girl we marry.