

This committee has had considerable examples that have been cited where there was a free and easy exchange of information—lie detector evaluation, psychological test results—between personnel officers.

Have you any more recent information in this area and could you explain what implications they may have in connection with the proposed centralization of these dossiers in the Federal Government?

Mr. PACKARD. I have a great deal more recent information that does not spring readily to mind in organized form. Certainly it is true, as you indicate, that the results of lie detector tests have been passed around, and I know at some of the credit bureaus there are regular desks where Federal agents can come and take information from the credit bureau forms.

You also have, of course, the exchange of information on criminal activities among about eight different Federal agencies involved in having any information about crime. I suppose we should applaud this where you are dealing with known criminals, although I think they also exchange information about suspected criminals. Perhaps this is defensible as one of the areas in this computerizing and centralizing of information.

In general, when you are dealing with the citizen as a free citizen, I think he is entitled to know the information he gives to one arm of the Government is not going to be used against him by another arm of the Government when he assumes the information was given confidentially.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You have mentioned the inherent fear of our citizen. This may well be a cause for the unrest that prevails in our country today. The specter of a human being coping with a fellow human being is not insurmountable, but now that he is overawed because he must now cope with a machine plus a human being, perhaps this awe is justified, but is this justification, in your opinion, something that we must accept, or is it possible for the man of the future to cope with a machine which will control his destiny?

Mr. PACKARD. I think that is the fundamental question, Mr. Chairman. I do not think the answer must necessarily be a negative one. I think Aldous Huxley before he died said that just because there are blind forces at work on the lives of individuals, this does not necessarily mean the individual cannot protect himself. I think all of us as Americans and as individuals—and this includes members of the Government and Members of the Congress and citizens and individuals—need to be aware of the fact that we do have the blind force of the computerized age that we must cope with, and we must put boundaries around it so it will serve us usefully rather than become a tyrant.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Dr. Westin, an expert on the problems of privacy, says:

Unless the issue of privacy is in the forefront of the planning and administration of future computer systems, the possibilities of data surveillance over the individual in 1984 could be chilling.

Would you care to comment on this?

Mr. PACKARD. I certainly would agree that is correct. Your earlier comment about the awe of computers I think is important, because people are more frightened of things they cannot understand, and I cannot understand the computer myself. I have been through the IBM factory and have had it explained to me and I have talked to