

Some of the best people are people that did something wrong and then went on in the light of their understanding of those wrong things, to do something right. And I can think of a lot of great people in the world who, if they had been stopped because they once took the wrong path, they would have been lost to us. They would have been some of the greatest religious leaders, some of the greatest political leaders that we have. We ought not to build into a machine anything that will keep us from having the benefit of those who once made a mistake in their lives.

A third thing that we will have, it seems to me with this center, is a nation of people who are afraid. One way I tried to prepare for being a witness here was to talk to people in New Haven. A man in the dry-cleaners listened to the best I could describe the Federal data center and the first thing he said was, "Why, that sounds just like Russia. We are going to have a number instead of a name over here pretty soon and it is not going to be very American."

I said, "You put it very well. Can I quote you?"

He said, "No, I don't want to get into trouble. Don't say a word."

Then I thought, there it is. They don't even have the center yet and this man who just works in a drycleaning establishment in New Haven is afraid. He doesn't want his name mentioned to those anonymous people in Washington who might write it down and might make some trouble for him someplace, somewhere.

If we have this center, it seems to me we will increase the number of people who are afraid and we will begin to lose what we like best in the American character, people who are willing to speak up, people who are willing to do things and not look around over their shoulder to see who is looking on.

When I spoke of the Constitution and the right of privacy and the right of confrontation, the right to be present at your own trial, I would like to emphasize that I am speaking of a minimum when I speak of the constitutional law. The Constitution represents not the maximum protection of the individual, but the minimum, and in this day and age in which we have so much pressure to invade the individual's life, I think we shouldn't stop with the Constitution; we should have affirmative laws to protect privacy more than the Constitution does.

It has always been our tradition to pass more laws than the Constitution provides because we know that is only a beginning.

While I think that hearings like this—that awareness of this problem are valuable, I believe in laws. I believe that real protection in this world comes not from people's good intentions but from the law and, therefore, I would like to see some laws on the subject of gathering of information like this.

I would like, in the first place, a law that would prohibit Government agencies from asking some kinds of questions at all. Some questions are either so personal it is nobody's business or so close to the constitutional area of religion and free speech that it is nobody's business in a constitutional sense.

Some information I would say is nobody's business at all. If you don't know that, you just have to hire them without knowing it. It is just too bad, because we don't ask people about their personal lives, in some respects, no matter how much we would like to know.