

Mr. GALLAGHER. Of course, we are running into some trouble right now where we have laws governing certain instruments which people are violating in pursuit of enforcing the law.

The committee is on a parallel course. We are not attempting to turn back progress. Indeed, even if one could, which one can't, that would be a most undesirable attempt. But we are attempting to air the need for updating our laws, and public interest in some of the things that are happening so that these laws can be passed here in the Congress and wherever else it might be useful, in the hope that the Federal Government can set some kind of guidelines.

As Mr. Packard cited earlier, there is a feeling of frustration about all this—that people feel technology is outpacing them, that they are unable to keep up with it, and therefore there is not much that can be done except resign yourself to the fact that you must answer the questionnaire, you must take a lie detector test, you must expose your entire life and stand psychologically naked before anybody who wants to take a view of what your posture is at the moment you apply for a job.

In this way and by this means you really have stimulated our own thinking on this committee here this morning.

Tomorrow we are going to have the Government witnesses who are advocating the central data bank.

Do you view this as a necessity and, if so, would you like to comment specifically on the concept of a Federal data bank for the collection of information to be used for broad-gage planning?

Professor REICH. Well, the simple answer to your question is, I do not view it as a necessity. As a matter of fact, I think it would be largely useless. Not only is it not necessary, but I think one of the things about our present-day society is that we are flooded with information that is useless to us. We have so many thousands and millions more facts than anybody can do anything with that any proposal to have more facts, or have them more readily available is suspect from the beginning. I don't want to know all the things. I can't keep track of all the things that happen in my own narrow field. Nobody else can either, and so I think we suffer from heaps of useless information. I think that often the only thing the information does is harm. I think this is a wonderful illustration of it.

I think as to the data center itself that it would very frequently do harm, that it is difficult for me to imagine when it would actually help somebody to select a good employee. I would say in one case in a thousand it might help, but I am not even sure this is true. It would not help me to pick an assistant to know what he had done wrong in high school or anything of that sort. As for how it fits into our society—one of the things you have to think about is that the Federal Government sets an example. If the Federal Government does this, it is natural for private employers to think this is the right and necessary thing to do. The Federal Government is something that most of our people look up to and if it says we have to do this, it seems to me that every businessman is likely to say the same thing, so I think it is a mistake to set a pattern like this unless you think it is the kind of country we want to have.

As I have already said, I think very emphatically it is not the kind of country we want to have. It seems to me it would create a cate-