

in the very field in which you are involved. A lawyer's role, of course, is to represent his client and to handle his case, whatever it might happen to be and, of course, law is based on precedent. One of the difficulties that a lawyer has is to spend the time to look up all the cases that have applied to the particular given situation. You are familiar with that type of research.

Now, it is comparable, it seems to me, in the field of law as it is in this other. The planner has to have certain facts and information at his fingertips and if he had to go back and analyze all these things and spend a lot of time digging it out, the same as a legal researcher has to dig it out, that takes time away from his specialty, which is planning. And studying to find out where these lawsuits, or these precedents or these cases are is also a matter of taking up a lawyer's time. As a matter of fact, sometimes the competency of a lawyer is based upon his ability to put his finger on a case. There has been a tendency in our courts, anyway, not to regard the absence of a lawyer having that information to the prejudice of his client. There is a possibility that you can push a button on a given subject and get, in the field of law, all the cases that pertain to that particular subject so that you just have it at your fingertips.

Now, this is certainly a good use of computers, and certainly demonstrates the need for having this type of thing. Perhaps if you think of it in the context of that type of a situation for the planner—and I don't want to argue with you or try to—we could spend all afternoon here debating whether or not it is good or bad, but I think it can illustrate how a computer can be of benefit to a lawyer, or to a doctor—because there are many doctors who don't diagnose a case properly. Xerox has its home plant in my district, and I know they have been giving very serious thought to, and are working now in, the field of providing computers and information for medical and for educational purposes.

A doctor can perhaps, by pushing a button, get backup information for diagnosis or treatment or how he should handle a particular given medical situation. So it does have a lot of benefits.

Mr. Macy, who has to make these decisions—and I don't want to defend him here, but Mr. Macy, who has to make the decisions on hiring personnel, is not in the trained position you are, where you are hiring one typist or one secretary. He is hiring and the Federal Government is losing on a daily basis probably tens of thousands of people. So they have to have some means of getting information in a hurry and not having to spend man-hours in digging up this information.

So I think this is one of the points that should be made with regard to the use of the computer.

I have these points that I have tried to emphasize along with the chairman and that is the role of this committee, to try to find out how that benefit can be harnessed and still preserve that individual right that should be protected.

Professor REICH. I agree with what you say completely. I don't mean to sound like planners should go off to a desert island and know nothing, and I don't think what we are interested in is an irrational society. I mean we try to do things sensibly so, of course, there is information that will be valuable.