

country as to various matters relating to privacy. We appear to be on a drift course to some extent on questions of wiretapping, bugging, invasions of privacy through all sorts of means, credit evaluations. We find overzealous law enforcers breaking the law to enforce the law they are sworn to uphold.

I think that there is quite a fear now existing that the Government may not be treating its citizens fairly or that the citizen is overpowered and must resign himself to the fact that the rules are now different.

While the Magna Carta was not written just for the king's men it appears that the king's men may well be rewriting the Magna Carta, to make it easier to collect taxes, or whatever the problem may be.

Would you care to comment on that?

Professor REICH. I agree with the thought. It seems to me that we should realize these things usually happen because people are trying to do their job, trying to do it too well. I don't hold to the theory that bad people do these things. I think good people do. The policeman tries to do his job and a civil service man tries to do his job. All of us require laws to remind us of all the other things in society that matter besides our own jobs. That is what a law is. It is a statement of something more general than your own personal concern.

In other words, I might see a diamond ring on the table and I would like to have it, but a law reminds me that other people have interests in the diamond ring. Someone else owns it and someone else cares about it.

A law is to give you a sense of something beyond your own task. I think that in a society like ours privacy disappears just because there are so many people. We are all so crowded together that what was taken for granted in the old days now is threatened by the simple fact of modern life. What we did not need laws for before, we do need laws for now.

When a man could have a quarter section of land and a house on it, he probably did not need a law to protect his privacy. He was probably lonely most of the time and would like to have his privacy invaded. As the times change, you begin to need laws where you did not before. I think that the country is going to keep on growing. It is going to get more crowded and what was once taken for granted is now a precious thing to try to save, try to preserve. I do not think that life would be worth living without some space left for the individual and so I think it is the job of a Congress that wants to plan for the future to look ahead to preserve the values that are threatened by changing times.

I see this as a job to keep our laws up to date with the conditions of modern life. I think that is what this subcommittee is doing.

Mr. GALLAGHER. On behalf of the subcommittee, Professor, we want to thank you very much for the splendid contribution and for stimulating our own thinking, and also for the valuable thoughts that you have contributed to this problem and to reassuring us that by updating our laws, in your opinion, that the world will still be a very desirable place to occupy and this country can, once it brings a sense of balance to fast-moving technologies, be a very desirable place to continue life.

I think that one of the main problems—and I certainly agree with you—is that we must update our laws in view of the rapidly changing complexion of our environment. For your contribution to our enlight-