

of the Census Bureau or the Bureau of Labor Statistics or the Social Security Administration at the present time, because the data center would have this information in machine-readable form and not on individual schedules which any one of the members of the staff could examine.

Secondly, I would emphasize that so far as the statistical data center is concerned, there is no intention to organize the data in the center with regard to individuals; that data in different files, data on different tapes, might certainly identify individuals enough so this information can be associated together for statistical purposes, but there would be no intention and no need for the data center to organize specific records about specific firms or specific individuals so you accumulated a lot of information about individuals. There would be the need for collating this information for special, particular statistical analysis, and there would definitely be a restriction on the giving to anybody, in Government or outside Government, just as the Census now does. The Department of Justice cannot get information from the Bureau of the Census. If they want a return filed by a particular business firm, they cannot get it. It is not a matter of theory.

Mr. GALLAGHER. We are trying to protect your interest and the reputation of Census and the Department by not allowing information to get mixed up with data collected by other agencies where the law is supposed to protect the individual confidentiality and confidentiality has never been a major factor.

Mr. BOWMAN. The other agencies do not have the same law as the Census Bureau, but they all undertake the same practices and I would say, Why can't the data center be governed by law in the same way as the Census Bureau is?

I would like to make one distinction, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to make my comments now with respect to all kinds of data centers, nor that this is a grand data center for all kinds of purposes. In other words, there is no use in the Federal Bureau of Investigation maintaining a fingerprint file if they are not to be allowed to use it to identify individuals, but there is no need in a statistical data center when it is being used for statistical purposes, to reveal any information about an individual. I think we have protected it in the past among statistical agencies, not only in the Census Bureau, and we can protect it in a statistical data center. Notice that in my remarks I was very careful to center attention on a statistical data center. The reports we have had have not done this as well as they should have, for they have been more technical. I am talking only about a statistical data center.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You have narrowed it down somewhat from Mr. Dunn's report, and you are zeroing in on the statistical data center aspect of this.

Mr. BOWMAN. The Dunn report and the Ruggles report, while they are not as specific as I now am, were addressed to the same idea. They were just not careful enough in their wording. What they were thinking about and at least what we were interested in, in reviewing their proposals, was not a data center for all purposes, but a Federal Statistical Data Center. We recognize that there are needs for other kinds of data centers for other kinds of purposes, but so far as the data center I am talking about and so far as the data center that the Bureau of the