

Budget has been interested in in connection with my work, it has been a Federal Statistical Data Center, not a center for other purposes.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Are you sufficiently confident to say categorically that this will never be used for any other purpose when you have the capacity of a computer to do all sorts of things in this day and age?

Mr. BOWMAN. We have the capacity to do all these sorts of things right now in the Census Bureau. We can do 75 or 60 percent of it.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Let's not talk about the Census Bureau. Let's talk about the IRS. Do you think the same pattern of confidentiality exists there?

Mr. BOWMAN. No, but let me——

Mr. GALLAGHER. You are going to mix this data.

Mr. BOWMAN. Let me make this clear. The IRS data release is governed by law. These laws can be changed. I would conceive of the Federal Data Center as having information from the IRS files in it, but the Data Center would not release that information about individuals. If it were released at all, it would be released under the conditions that now prevail with regard to the IRS and only with respect to its data and by IRS. The Data Center would not itself release that information, nor would it associate that information with anything else and release it in associated form. The kind of data center that I am talking about is a Federal Statistical Data Center which would do a great deal to relieve American business of duplicate reporting, would not reveal information about any individual or any individual business, but would make it possible to bring this information together for statistical purposes when released in statistical form. The identity of the individual would not be disclosed.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Then why can you not give us assurance the identity of the individual or the individual corporation will be eliminated before those statistics will be put into the Data Center?

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Chairman, for this reason: Suppose we have certain information in the data that are in the Center from the Census Bureau about individual persons. Suppose we have certain information in the Internal Revenue returns. We do not want to ask the business firms to give us information they have already given us, but we must be able to take the information that we have given to us which are not on the Internal Revenue returns and put it together with the information that is on the individual returns and save them the job of giving us additional information, and make statistical analyses which will indicate various characteristics of the economic scene.

But if anybody comes to us and says, "Give us the information about X company that were on census returns plus the information from IRS," the answer is clear. It can be made a matter of law. Penalties can be placed on the people who supervise the Data Center and operate it. Information about an individual cannot be released from the Center. It is just as clear as that. On this I can give all the assurance in the world.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Are you recommending it?

Mr. BOWMAN. Remember, we are only considering a data center now. If a data center is organized, I would definitely recommend that very clear and specific regulation—legislation if this seems to be the desirable method—be inaugurated with regard to a data center, yes. I am just as much interested as this committee is in protecting the