

ation gets. In other words, someone has information that a certain individual committed an indiscretion in the past. We have all agreed, the testimony here has indicated, that one of the difficulties with an electronic data machine is that it never forgets it and that man may never be able to get a responsible job any place again if that information is known about him.

Now we are taking an example and saying, "but suppose the Census Bureau or suppose the data center has a person like that." In other words, this person could be employed by the Census Bureau now and he might have access to this information. He could be employed by the data center. I cannot deny that. All I can say is that penalties of law for unlawful disclosure of information have been provided, and I can say that so far as the Census Bureau is concerned, I know of no significant or other than significant instances where information has been disclosed.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Let the Chair take judicial notice that the Census Bureau has been inviolate, and now let us talk about some other things. This has not always been the case with other agencies. Now you are making a mix of other agencies that might have access to that information which we are now discussing, if it is in one central location.

Mr. BOWMAN. Have you in mind any statistical agency, information gathered under restrictions of statistical confidentiality, in which there have been breaches?

Mr. GALLAGHER. No. We are talking now beyond statistical information, even though you concentrate in this area. You fail to give me the assurance that the individual's name will be deleted from your statistics, and it would appear to me we have now placed him in a position of jeopardy unless there are adequate safeguards set up in your data bank.

Mr. BOWMAN. I agree. There would be adequate safeguards.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Is this the telecommunications type of computer that we are talking about, where you would have someone at Census communicate by wire, or whatever the mechanism might be, from the Census Bureau to the central bank for information?

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Chairman, I think this is an area, also, which needs very careful discussion. Our consideration of the statistical data center to date has really just begun to examine the various conditions. I cannot say anything more now than what are my own personal views. The data center that we are talking about, the statistical data center, would basically be for data that already have been collected.

Mr. GALLAGHER. The 9,000 reels. Is that what you are talking about?

Mr. BOWMAN. This is information, I presume, which indicated some of the things that might be put in the data center. We have not even discussed in detail the things that would be put into the data center. There are some things that would not be.

The point I would like to make is the data center would not take the place of each of the collecting agencies that now exist, maintaining all of the information with regard to current information. Basically, the data center would be a place where one Federal agency could go and say, "We are dealing with a problem which requires us to have information on other bodies of information than those we now have."