

I think the Defense Department has a very vital interest in this sort of a system. If you have a system, I would sleep a lot better at night if your people would go over and tell them how to do it.

Mr. BOWMAN. The Defense Department is talking about a problem somewhat different from the one I am talking about.

Mr. GALLAGHER. No problem is more important than the protection of an individual citizen. This is exactly what I am talking about.

Mr. BOWMAN. That is what I am talking about. The system that I am talking about for maintaining that protection, for improving it, I hope does not involve all of the things that are involved in the Defense Department's operation with regard to the communication of information.

I am very sympathetic to what this committee is trying to do. But I am trying to make my point that a Federal Statistical Data Center can be developed, in my opinion, that will protect the confidentiality of individuals.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Bowman, do you know of any system now that is set up that is fully secure with regard to radiation transmission?

Mr. BOWMAN. Radiation? I do not know a thing about radiation transmission; no.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I am now sitting in this office typing up a report that is confidential and this report, if we are going to use the computer, ends up being transmitted over to my office. I would assume if you would translate this to someone down in Census typing up statistics about a copy of some sort, this would now be transmitted down to your data bank. That would be a radiation-type transmission.

Mr. BOWMAN. This is assuming we are going to use that method.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I want to know what method you are going to use. Are you going to hand-carry? If you are going to hand-carry, it is not a very efficient use of the computer.

Mr. BOWMAN. Here in a situation—

Mr. GALLAGHER. That is what I am talking about.

Mr. BOWMAN. If you are using the most advanced method you may be subject to a threat of release of information that you do not want to release. Then I would say that in the light of the public interest you may have to deny yourself the using of the most efficient method in order that you may protect the individual against the invasion of his privacy and use a less technologically advanced method.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Like what?

Mr. BOWMAN. You just said hand-deliver the tapes.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Now, if that is so, why can you not do that now?

Mr. BOWMAN. We are doing it now.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Is it working well?

Mr. BOWMAN. It is working reasonably well.

Mr. GALLAGHER. How many users do you have?

Mr. BOWMAN. I would have to get information on that now. We are making tapes available in different ways among different agencies. We think that the idea that we are setting forth here will improve that considerably.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Let me ask you this: How many users have you had? How many customers do you have? How many potential customers do you have? How many requests have been granted? How many have been denied? This would create a demand for the central data bank.