

Mr. BOWMAN. I would have access to it. I have not really asked for it. How many—

Mr. GALLAGHER. Is there 10? 100? We are going to spend a lot of money.

Mr. BOWMAN. There are thousands.

Mr. GALLAGHER. How many requests have been denied? Have they ever sought information that properly was turned down? How many times?

Mr. BOWMAN. I presume they have. I cannot testify here and now in detail.

Mr. GALLAGHER. If the Budget does not know, who will know? Certainly not Mr. Ruggles or Mr. Dunn.

Mr. BOWMAN. The Budget may not. I do not know personally because I did not prepare myself for that kind of information.

Mr. GALLAGHER. The question is: We are about to depart from a long-established practice.

Mr. BOWMAN. We are not going to depart.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I would like to know whether or not there is a justification for this departure.

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Chairman, we are not departing from a long-established practice. We are adhering to a long-established practice. In a very clear sense any one of the large statistical agencies is a data center now.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Why do we not allow it to continue in the efficient fashion it has in the past?

Mr. BOWMAN. Because we think after we have investigated it a little more carefully that there are more efficient ways of doing so. As it is now the Federal statistical system is a decentralized one. There are many people who feel decentralization is a general advantage for the general collection and development of statistics. There are others who feel differently.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Everybody who is a statistic would agree with this?

Mr. BOWMAN. You would make it so decentralized nobody collected individual information on an individual except one agency. Then you would have an agency for every individual.

Mr. GALLAGHER. No; I do not think we should do that. I think what we are doing now is just fine. I am trying to see some justification as to why we should do it another way. Since you have not designed a system you do not know how many users there are, what the purposes will be, how much it will cost, or why we should do it, I think we ought to abandon it for a while and go back and study it.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, if I may interject a note at this moment. You do not understand it because you have not read that well-received book, "Ruggles of Statistical Gap."

Mr. GALLAGHER. There seems to be a gap involved right here as to why we should do this, Mr. Bowman.

Mr. BOWMAN. We have not yet proposed to do it. We are considering the possibility of making such a proposal so far as this hearing is concerned. We were invited here because there is a great concern about, as there should be, various other developments that are taking place in the economy which seem to involve invasions of privacy. I am here to indicate the way in which I think this will affect a proposal on a Federal Statistical Data Center. I have tried just as clearly as I could to state my position.