

I do not believe that I can improve that statement. I think the Federal Statistical Data Center would achieve, could be achieved, and not invade privacy.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You have given a great deal of study to the statistical means for this. Should there not be a corresponding study as far as the desirability of it and as far as the safeguarding of these statistics are concerned, before we start?

Mr. BOWMAN. I am glad you asked that question. It seems to me you asked that question because it seems to me I have not made one point clear.

All my comments are about a statistical data center. This center would not serve a lot of other needs for which other people would say there are needs for centers. I am not commenting on those. I cannot comment on those because they are outside my professional competence and outside of the area for which I have responsibilities. There may be many other kinds of centers proposed. There are.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Bowman, I have tried to confine our questions to your area of responsibility and to your area of competence, for which I have great respect. I have asked you several questions which I do not feel that you really have responded to. Who are the users? Why? What use has been made of the information that you now have? What compels the necessity of centralization? If you are about to centralize, what kind of a system are you suggesting?

This is one of the things that disturbs this committee.

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Chairman, let me answer the first one. Who are the users? At the present time the Census Bureau is a user of IRS information. Other agencies are users of IRS information. Each of them has to make their separate arrangements with IRS.

Mr. GALLAGHER. What is wrong with that?

Mr. BOWMAN. There might be considerable economy if the IRS information were available in one place, better organized for the users, to which the different Federal agencies can put it so that this could be done through one agency instead of having to make arrangements in several different ways. In other words, if the Census Bureau gets information from IRS on data tapes and pays for the cost of doing so, then the question is, if another agency wants exactly the same information and goes to IRS do they do it all over again?

Mr. GALLAGHER. I say "Yes." Let us do it all over again because you want to hand-carry an incompatible tape over to another agency.

Mr. BOWMAN. No, once it was done it would be available to all Federal agencies so long as the agency did not ask for information about individual respondents.

Mr. GALLAGHER. That is done.

Mr. BOWMAN. Did I answer that question?

Mr. GALLAGHER. Actually, you have raised the question that I really must get back to. What kind of a system is going to make this fully protective to the individual? Is there one now in existence? Is there one that has been designed to build in adequate safeguards?

Mr. BOWMAN. Yes, the same system would apply to information in the Data Center as now applies to information in the Census Bureau. They have all this information that you are talking about.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Yes, you are telling me that this can be done. Anybody in the computer business that we have spoken to advises me that it cannot be done.