

Mr. GALLAGHER. Can you assure me that it would not? You are not assuring me that you will not eliminate individual identification. If you do, we can say it is a fine thing.

Mr. BOWMAN. I am not assuring you that there will be no information in the Data Center that does not reveal the identity of an individual. I have not said that I would recommend any system of telecommunications which is itself subject to revealing the identity of individuals.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Chairman, on that point.

As a matter of fact, affirmatively, you have to have the identity of the person or the corporation in order for the statistical information to be of any benefit?

Mr. BOWMAN. In most instances; not in all.

Mr. HORTON. Let us not quibble over words. You have to, in order for this proposed Center to be effective, have the identity of the individual or the corporation furnishing this information?

Mr. BOWMAN. That is what I said in my—

Mr. HORTON. No, you did not say that.

Mr. BOWMAN. Just a minute.

Mr. HORTON. I did not understand that. Let us put it that way.

Mr. BOWMAN. I am very willing to say, and I thought I did say—and I think the transcript will show that I did say—that I could not commit myself to Mr. Gallagher's questions. I could not answer it by saying that there will be nothing in the Data Center that does not reveal—there will be nothing—the Data Center will have no information that reveals the identity of an individual.

Mr. HORTON. I do not want to quibble over words. I am saying to you that you have to state it affirmatively in order for the statistical information to be of any benefit. You have to have the identity of the individual or the corporation or the organization in that data bank.

Mr. BOWMAN. I do so state.

Mr. KRUEGER. May I comment on the question that you are raising here with regard to systems of communication. I think we can say most emphatically that unless the technological advances in the general area of telecommunications or between computers is advanced to the point where this kind of system can be used with sufficient safeguards protecting confidentiality, we would not propose its use.

Mr. HORTON. That gets back to the question of how are you going to protect that confidentiality?

Mr. KRUEGER. What we had thought of was the same kind of protection we now have which requires agencies which collect information under pledges of confidentiality to maintain that confidentiality and which have provisions in law imposing penalties for anyone who violates that.

Mr. HORTON. You are talking about a present system that is quite different from the system that you are now proposing or that you are at least considering. At the present time in many of these agencies they have computer banks already. Is this not a fact?

Mr. BOWMAN. I think we are not proposing a system that is significantly different from the system we now have. We are proposing—

Mr. HORTON. You may not feel it is that way but it seems to me that it is.