

Answer this question: Are there not now in existence in various agencies throughout the Federal Government these computer banks?

Mr. BOWMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HORTON. What you are proposing is an octopus. You are going to put the head on all these figures because each one of these agencies has these data banks already. So what you are going to do is provide the body for these arms and you are going to put all this information in one central place and then any other department will be able to get that information, will be able to get it on a moment's notice, and conceivably the thing we are concerned about is that this type of information can become public knowledge.

Mr. BOWMAN. That is a very good way of stating it. I think to a considerable extent it represents the background of our thinking about this matter. Suppose it is true that all of these agencies that now collect statistical data, they do not all have banks of data of other agencies now but a great many of them do. Suppose they all had it. What is protecting the confidentiality of that information now?

Mr. HORTON. That is what I am concerned about.

Mr. BOWMAN. I think it would be much better. I believe it is still protected but I think it would be much better to have that information assembled in one place under strict rules of confidentiality that can be much more clearly watched than having it spread over several different agencies all of which are trying to practice rules of confidentiality but they may not all be everything that we would hope they would be.

Mr. HORTON. I understand there is a proposal—I don't know what the status of it is, but that the National Crime Center, which is on a computer basis, is being considered. They will be able to get quite a bit of information. This information, whether you hand carry it, or send it by telecommunications, will end up in this central data bank.

I notice Mr. Macy—and you are probably familiar with his article in the Saturday Review—said “for proper decisions in these areas,” meaning decisions on personnel planning, jobs, and so forth—

In forecasting manpower needs and important decisions of career planning, for proper decisions in these areas, we must have integrated information systems. This will require the use of information across departmental boundaries. It is here that current efforts to standardize symbols and codes will pay dividends. Direct tape-to-tape feeding of data from one department to another may become common.

Now, that is Mr. Macy talking. He is going to be one of the users of this information. If the President or any other agency has a demand for a certain type of personnel, they are going to make a request on your central data bank.

Mr. BOWMAN. Not our data bank, no.

It says information systems. I think this is where I agree with all the things I have heard here today. The thing we are talking about is not making or not even discussing a proposal for a single, all-purpose data bank. What I am discussing is a single-purpose data bank of not all information that is available but of information that is particularly relevant for statistical purposes which is basically quantitative information. It is measurements of one sort or another. But, irrespective of the fact that it might have some information in the statistical data center that is in another data center for other pur-