

We, definitely, Mr. Chairman, are just as strongly in support of the idea as you are, that for the statistical program which I am mainly concerned about, we do not want in any way to violate the confidentiality of information with regard to the individual.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Assuming we are going to strictly adhere to the law, the problem of computers at this stage of the game is something that bothers us. Electronic radiation transmission problems are still in research and they are only in a research stage at this point. This is one of the reasons why at this particular moment of our time we object and would like to be convinced that confidentiality can be protected. Unless we are all going to start living in lead-lined rooms in this country, and all of the offices involved in the data bank will be lined with lead, there is the problem of anyone getting on the same transmission channel and requesting that information and acquiring that information.

Now, this just has not been solved. I don't know what your feelings are. Perhaps you think it has been solved.

Mr. BOWMAN. No, I don't think it has been solved, but I must admit I don't see its specific relevance to the main idea that we are talking about here.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Its specific relevance is very simple. If I were fortunate enough to have the computer give me a little patronage and give my uncle a job over at the data center, he might see a key lying around and therefore he could turn on the proper channel and recall information on somebody he might not particularly like, or he might have a cousin on whom he would like to do a little double-think kind of operation, and he might flash through one of the erasure-type devices and for all history that person would no longer exist.

Mr. BOWMAN. This can be done now at many of the operations.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Yes, it can. He might exist in census and might not exist in IRS, but he is going to totally not exist in a central data bank.

Mr. BOWMAN. I don't really think so, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Well, not this week, but you know that in the interests of efficiency and economy we will have people in here 3 years from now saying we ought to put a little more information in there.

Mr. BOWMAN. You certainly realize how carefully I have tried to be—

Mr. GALLAGHER. Yes. You haven't gotten around to answering the questions I asked about an hour ago.

Mr. BOWMAN. I think that is unfair, Mr. Chairman. I think that is quite unfair.

Mr. GALLAGHER. No. No. Mr. Bowman, you have not answered my questions as to whether or not there is a system that can protect confidentiality and build in the very things upon which you have told me, and upon which I believe you, and on which we share a concurrence of opinion.

Mr. BOWMAN. If you are talking about an electronic data communications system, I don't know nearly enough to answer that question. There may not be any ways of protecting communication by that method that is completely foolproof against other people tapping in on the system. I would agree with you that the Defense Department knows a lot more about that than I do. But I would say that applies to everything that we are doing now without any changes.