

been made for the telephone, how many requests have been denied, and what the problems are, before we get down into a whole new area? It would seem to me that would be more efficient, far more cheaper and protective of the individual. If we haven't done this now, why should we now move into a central data bank when the need has not yet been created or determined?

Mr. BOWMAN. At the back of the Ruggles report there is a practical inventory we made intimating some of the things which seem to be in a form now which would be readily available without us making a decision that we would want to put all of them in the data center, but which seem to be readily available for this purpose. This gives you some idea of some of the things that could be put into a data center. We—

Mr. GALLAGHER. I have read that, Mr. Bowman. What I am asking is, has there ever been an inventory published of the kind of data that is now available—even though it is not centralized.

Mr. BOWMAN. That is the closest thing that I know of to that sort of thing.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Would it not be more advisable to have a full inventory and then distribute it to the potential users to see how many people or what kind of users might want it and how reasonable their requests are before we got into what appears to be the start of a whole new area in government, and not a very efficient operation?

Mr. BOWMAN. We communicate with our public now to a great extent through publications. The inadequacies of publications for many purposes are the things that Mr. Ruggles and the other people of that sort have been talking about.

It would be our hope if we had a statistical data center that operated so that confidentiality could be maintained in the way you say my intentions are, that some of the detailed publications that we now make could be avoided. We might make some economies along those lines. We can never serve the real needs by these detailed publications.

You see, we are all caught in a new system of technology here. We are trying to think our way through it.

Mr. GALLAGHER. We are trying to make sure the people are not caught in the new system. That is why we are here today.

Mr. BOWMAN. Certainly on that basis I am 100 percent in favor of the work of this committee.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Would you consider gathering information and publishing an inventory, before we got into the central data bank, to see what the demands are for this kind of information?

Mr. KRUEGER. It would be the interest in this kind of thing which led the so-called Ruggles Committee to study the whole problem and led them to make a report to the Social Science Research Council in the first instance. These were essentially groups of people—there were people also in the Government concerned with the fact that there is available now a great deal of information; it is stored around in different places; in order to make the kind of uses for statistical analysis, they would like to—they find it difficult to get access to it under present administrative arrangements.

Mr. GALLAGHER. That is not all bad.

Mr. KRUEGER. Not all bad, no, but part of it is and it is the bad part with which we are concerned, which we conceived of, as the formation of this kind of capability as providing a service for.