

I would like to see that commitment matched with the special kind of commitment that we in Congress feel we have to the people of preserving constitutional rights.

The difference of opinion between you and the committee, as I see it, is that we are both in favor of advancing the use of technological equipment.

You think this can be done and still preserve the inherent rights that people have under the Constitution. Frankly, from the testimony here this morning and from yesterday's testimony and other things, I have grave doubts and deep reservations that the national data center can be developed without infringing on individuals constitutional rights—unless Congress enacts laws to prevent you from doing the things that we think should be done.

We can't rely on your good judgment or the good judgment of your associates to prevent these things from happening. Before this center is developed, before any money is authorized or appropriated, I think we are going to have to enact laws to make sure that there are no invasions and that the privileges you are permitted to have to make use of this machine are not abused. This is where our difference of opinion is.

You think we can rely on your good judgment. My own feeling is that we are going to have to rely on legislation.

Mr. BOWMAN. I don't really disagree with what you have said and it may well be that the statistical data center, if it is set up, will require and need, and we will propose that it specify, the passage of laws to protect the confidentiality of information that is stored within it. I don't disagree with you on that.

If I disagree at all, it is merely a matter of saying I don't really want to talk about data centers broadly. A statistical data center where the information is to be used for statistical purposes, I think law can be devised which will protect the confidentiality of information so far as the individual is concerned.

I would also like to answer this question. I think I am equally, as strongly convinced as anyone, that the constitutional protection of individuals is just as uppermost in my mind as is the economy of operations of the Government.

On that point, I am a strong supporter of this point.

Now, with regard to other types of data centers, it may well be that the law will have to make up its mind whether it is desirable or undesirable to have information centralized of a certain kind.

For example, we now have a center for the registration of automobile operation registration. The States and the Federal Government operate this center so that one State can find out whether or not a revocation has taken place in one State that the other State doesn't know about.

Now, this is definitely an infringement, if you will, of some kind on the individual.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. That is not quite the same as sending an employment letter to a professor in school and saying, "What do you think about this fellow? What is his temperament and personality?"

If a man's license is revoked, I see no reason not to tell every State about it.

Mr. BOWMAN. That is the way I feel about it, but every now and again I have a feeling that people are including this as well.