

For instance, the writing of a letter to a professor and asking him what he thinks about a person, I can't possibly conceive how that would even get in our Federal statistical data center.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. It would get into an employment or personnel file in an agency and I can conceive that that file in some way could be transmitted or the information therein sent to a Federal data center.

Mr. BOWMAN. A Federal center, but I hope not our Federal statistical data center.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I don't know a thing about the statistical center and I can visualize this kind of information being gathered and kept in such a center.

Mr. BOWMAN. If it did get there, it shouldn't get out as far as the individual is concerned.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Right.

Mr. BOWMAN. There will have to be legislation which I hope you will submit and if you fail to act in that regard I suppose the members of this committee will have to prepare such legislation prior to and as a condition, in my judgment, a condition to the establishment of such a concern.

Mr. CORNISH. Mr. Bowman, we understand your testimony is based on the rather current proposals that are now before the Bureau of the Budget, but I hope you will understand that our concern extends into the future a number of years where there may be many pressures and demands to make this computer center something more than what it is presently proposed as.

In that context, I hope you will understand the concern of the committee.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLAGHER. This might well be incidental, yet it points out the problem: This scientific data business that is going on is all well intentioned, where boys and girls write into a data center and give a lot of information as to the size of their moles and all sorts of other things. That was a lot of fun at the beginning, but now people are running off and selling tapes, catering to the kinds of feelings that they might have.

There is a basic weakness in this also. I think one of the advertisements advertised a \$2.50 a year membership, or a \$400 life membership, which is for the real losers. It shows that the computer really does not solve all the problems. It is one of the things that we worry about, that it might create more problems than it started out solving, and create new problems. Now it is suggested that millions of people will be programed and the lists might be sold for other purposes. So what starts out well intentioned actually could end up very seriously an invasion of people's privacy. All of the bugs have not been eliminated.

Let me ask you this: Is this presently funded, now? Could you go ahead now?

Mr. BOWMAN. There would have to be an appropriation.

Mr. GALLAGHER. But you have a contingency fund.

Mr. BOWMAN. The contingency fund is merely an allowance in the budget but the funds that would come out of the contingency fund would still have to be appropriated. Is that right?