

As I say, this would be helpful. I think what we have to do is to make certain that we are not going to adopt this without having a real hard look at it from every aspect, from the law, from the invasion of privacy, from the interests of the citizen, as opposed to just the statistical needs.

Now, I would hope that you could consider that suggestion.

Mr. BOWMAN. We shall do so.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Horton.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

I start off with the premise that I am not mad at computers and that computers can do good things for us and in my opening statement yesterday I tried to indicate a computer can be very helpful if it is utilized in a proper way.

My approach to this is to try to make it possible for the Federal Government to use computers, but at the same time try to recognize the problem of protecting the individual.

Now, I am a bit confused because I understood that your proposal, or at least the thing that was being thought about, was not so limited as your testimony would indicate here today.

You have tended to indicate that the information that you are going to gather is statistical information and that this would just be a furnishing of statistics to other Government agencies and other users.

Is that accurate? Have you limited the proposal here today? It is not going to be a central data bank for the entire Government; is that right?

Mr. BOWMAN. That is right. Covering all functions.

Mr. HORTON. But you are going to have to get a lot of information. Where are you going to get this information?

Mr. BOWMAN. The idea here was quite broad, that all information useful for statistical purposes and to be used only for statistical purposes would go into the data center.

Mr. HORTON. I don't expect you to have now a definition of "information for statistical purposes," but I wish you would submit to this committee a definition of what you understand "information for statistical purposes" to be. I would like to know that in very much detail.

Mr. BOWMAN. Let me say what I have stated the other way around. It definitely does not involve giving any information that can be identified with any individual. It excludes that. I will try to write out a definition of what it includes.

Mr. HORTON. The present concept excludes giving out information that would be identifiable insofar as an individual corporation is concerned?

Mr. BOWMAN. Yes.

Mr. HORTON. But you have indicated earlier that the information you obtain would identify an individual and would identify a corporation or an organization—would identify the source of information, in other words, and would be very specific.

Mr. BOWMAN. That is right.

Mr. HORTON. So it would be retrievable, would it not, on the data bank?

Mr. BOWMAN. Yes.