

Mr. BOWMAN. It does not say that you cannot transmit it. It says when you do take it, you cannot release it without—

Mr. HORTON. Reading from section 139(b) of title V of the United States Code:

Information obtained by a Federal agency from any person or persons may, pursuant to section 139-139f of this title, be released to any other Federal agency only if (1) the information shall be released in the form of statistical totals or summaries; or (2) the information as supplied by persons to a Federal agency shall not, at the time of collection, have been declared by that agency or by any superior authority to be confidential; or (3) the persons supplying the information shall consent to the release of it to a second agency by the agency to which the information was originally supplied; or (4) the Federal agency to which another Federal agency shall release the information has authority to collect the information itself and such authority is supported by legal provision for criminal penalties against persons failing to supply such information.

So, you would have to have some type of authority to get this.

Mr. BOWMAN. In many instances, that is right.

Mr. HORTON. Have you talked with any of these various collecting agencies with regard to this proposal so you could find out what the problems are with regard to setting up a central data bank?

Mr. BOWMAN. We have talked with them about some of the problems that are associated with it, but we have not in detail gone into what the limitations would be on each agency. It would be more severe on some agencies than it is on others, because of the pledges of confidentiality that they have.

Mr. KRUEGER. I can illustrate how that might work by an example of what goes on. The Census Bureau operates under very strict statutory limitations which provide that information reports submitted to the Census Bureau can be examined only by sworn employees of the Department of Commerce.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. What kind of employees?

Mr. KRUEGER. Sworn employees of the Department of Commerce. The Internal Revenue collects, as you know, income tax returns. They are collected under certain other kinds of restrictions as to the use, availability, et cetera. The Census Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service have been cooperating in an undertaking which involves the collation of information obtained from the economic censuses of 1963 with information from tax returns.

Mr. HORTON. So you are saying there already is an exchange of information between these two agencies.

Mr. KRUEGER. Yes.

Mr. BOWMAN. One-way exchange.

Mr. KRUEGER. Internal Revenue, because of the particular restrictions, is able to make the tax return information available to the Census Bureau, but the Census Bureau cannot make the information from the census of manufactures, say, available to Internal Revenue.

Mr. HORTON. This is a loophole we will have to study, because one of the things I am concerned about is that this thing has been growing up helter-skelter, and nobody has been looking at it specifically as we have.

One of the witnesses yesterday pointed out with regard to the use of the social security number how it began as a confidential piece of information and now it is available to everybody, practically. So, there has been a movement away from the original intention.