

I want to underscore something I think we ought to remember all the way through these hearings because I think it sums it up better than any of us can; that is what Mr. Packard said yesterday. He said:

My own hunch is that Big Brother, if he ever comes to these United States, may turn out to be not a greedy power seeker but rather a relentless bureaucrat obsessed with efficiency. And he, more than the simple power seeker, could lead us to that ultimate of horrors: a humanity in chains of plastic tape.

It seems to me what you are doing here for the sake of efficiency is to propose a source of information which can very well get out of hand because you will have to have, for your purposes, identification on that machine.

I give you the benefit of good intentions at this point, but you may not be here 5 years from now and you may not be here 10 years from now. All this information is going to be in that central bank. Somebody, for the sake of efficiency, will say, "We ought to have it for some other purpose." I cannot even envision what those purposes may be. We have to be concerned—and I hope you will be concerned particularly now—about how we are to protect that individual from having that information disseminated on an individual basis. I do not think we have sufficient safeguards at the present time.

Mr. BOWMAN. It is certainly one of my concerns.

Mr. HORTON. Do the people in your Bureau take a close look at what is already being done in these computer centers in the other agencies?

Mr. BOWMAN. Within the statistical agencies, we are quite familiar. We are not familiar with the uses of data in the nonstatistical agencies. For instance, we are not familiar with the uses of data in the Defense Department. We are not familiar with the uses of data in the FBI, the fingerprint files. So far as the use of data in the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, and all of the areas of our particular concern, we are familiar with the practices which they follow in the use of the computers and the effect it has upon confidentiality.

Mr. HORTON. Do you know of any of these agencies that have come to Congress and gotten the specific authority of Congress to proceed with these so-called data banks?

Mr. BOWMAN. There are some recent acts that were passed. They were data banks broader than statistical data banks. I do not believe any statistical agencies have had any particular authorization in this area. There have been appropriations for their setting up computer facilities.

Mr. HORTON. These computer facilities are more than just statistical, because they have personal information in them. I do not understand what Mr. Macy is talking about, and I wish you would explain it to me, because Mr. Macy indicated there are already integrated information systems, and that they use this information across departmental boundaries. He says it is going to be common to use direct tape-to-tape feeding of data from one department to another. He indicates in this article that they have already used this system to give the President some recommendations with regard to filling high-level jobs.

You would have all that information on that tape. He has only limited information. I assume he does not have what the FBI has on theirs.