

Mr. Macy is a very close personal friend, and I have the highest regard for him and I know he is concerned about this problem, but will it not be a lot more efficient 5 years from now for whoever is the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission to say, "We are going to need the information from the central data bank and you have it now in the Bureau of the Budget," and make a request of you and somebody is going to have to decide whether they release it, and they will find some way to release it because it will save the taxpayers a lot of money?

That is a hypothetical question, but it could happen, could it not?

Mr. BOWMAN. It could happen. The thing is, I would think much of the information would not be in the type of data center I am talking about. I did answer all your questions by saying the Civil Service Commission has information of a quantitative character about the number of people, their length of service in the Federal Government, their color, their race, their marital status, and it might well be in the data center.

I also said they could not get it back again if they wanted it so far as an individual is concerned, or no one else could, other than the Civil Service Commission.

Now with regard to files that various agencies may have, with regard to the whole history of a person's employment in the Federal Government, I can see how the Federal Government in order to operate has to know about Mr. X when he worked in this agency or that agency or another agency, and that this information can conveniently be collected and made more accessible. I am not saying that this is inappropriate. I am saying, however, it has risks associated with it that the data center which I am discussing does not seem to have, in my opinion.

Mr. HORRON. I am pointing out the possibilities and I am also thinking in terms of the fact that there are applications by law students, as was demonstrated yesterday, for employment in the Federal Government, and the Federal Government sends out questionnaires to these law professors and they put personal opinions on those reports. That information can very easily be fed into a computer.

I am concerned about the transmittal and the error in transmittal, too, because this can happen. I had a lawsuit one time where a fellow was charged with a hit-and-run accident in New York City, and he had a pretty bad situation facing him because they had his license. The sergeant had made an error and put the wrong license number down. So, this client of mine was having a really serious problem.

That information will be fed in and it would be put on a tape in Mr. Macy's agency or the FBI or the State Department or wherever it might happen to be. Conceivably, in 5 years from now we will not have a Secretary of State, so somebody will come along and want to get the information on all the people who have studied constitutional law and all the other things that he thinks go into making a good Secretary of State. Then he will go to the most efficient way of getting it, the central data bank. You will be furnishing personal information on somebody which can be reviewed and seen, and it will have a marked effect upon that person's life.

Mr. BOWMAN. We could not release it. I think you have made another point which I think is very important. It may be that we will have to consider not only regulations with regard to what comes out of the data center that I have been talking about, but also regulations about what goes into it.