

Standards, Bureau of the Budget, he has written a review of the proposal for a national data center.

I might say that there appears to be a data wall, Mr. Ruggles, on the campus of Yale University. Professor Reich was here yesterday and took a dim view of your proposal. That is what we are here for—so that we can get all the views, to see that we ourselves can learn as much about the problem as possible.

I hope that this dialog in some way will create a climate of concern necessary before we take such a step.

Mr. Ruggles, would you proceed with your statement?

STATEMENT OF RICHARD RUGGLES, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, YALE UNIVERSITY

Mr. RUGGLES. The Congress is indeed wise to give serious consideration to the question of the individual's right to privacy, and the possible infringement thereof by the Federal Government, and even Congress itself. The danger lies not only in the massive files which are built up in the different Government agencies, but even in fragmentary information which may fall into the hands of someone who may use it to inflict damage or embarrassment to the individual concerned. The individual citizen is quite right to be wary of a government which can use information at its disposal to coerce, badger, or expose him in ways which are not based upon due process of the law. One of the most encouraging developments of recent years has been the increasing recognition that information obtained illegally does not constitute proper evidence, and that certain agencies of the Federal Government itself may have acted illegally in their attempts to procure such information. Thus wiretapping, improper seizure of records, et cetera, are now considered illegal in situations other than those directly concerned with national security. The use of confessions and the prosecution of offenders without adequate legal representation have also been called into serious question. By the same token, it is becoming increasingly evident that we must take steps to protect the information which the Government obtains from individuals and businesses in its normal operation. This, I gather, is the concern of this committee today.

The problem of disclosure of confidential information about individuals and businesses is not new. It has long been recognized that the information which individuals and businesses provide under law to the Bureau of the Census, for example, is confidential. This means that no other Federal agency is permitted to see or use the individual records, and even Congress itself cannot obtain census information on any individual or company. In fact, this confidentiality has been guarded so zealously that Congress and the other agencies of the Federal Government have been enjoined from obtaining from companies duplicate copies of those records which were submitted to the Census Bureau. The disclosure rules are meant to safeguard individuals so that they can feel sure that information which they give to the Census Bureau will never be used against them for such purposes as tax enforcement, antitrust, or congressional investigations. The disclosure rule has not been interpreted, of course, as preventing the use of census information for analyzing policy or providing in-