

associate it with something else and say this compares with the per capita consumption of three oranges per week, the information takes another big jump. If I go further and say in spite of this national average, northerners eat more apples than oranges, then the information content jumps again.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Less acid.

Mr. DUNN. That is a ridiculous example in a way, but what I am trying to point out here is, a task of statistical analysis or any kind of analysis—and there is the backbone for policy administration—is a way of associating records or numbers that have attributes to private enterprise, governmental units and so forth. Unless you can start with this kind of information, you don't have any information. You don't have anything that tells you anything. It simply cannot be done without the basic building blocks which ultimately are responding units of some sort. The building blocks must exist because there is literally no way that you can generate a statistic without them.

If you think you can solve this problem by abolishing the building block and leaving some kind of residue of statistics, you are mistaken because in the process you destroy the basis for all statistics.

Now, let me qualify this—

Mr. HORTON. I think you have just indicated why we are very concerned about this.

Mr. DUNN. Precisely, and I am concerned about this too. I am just as concerned as you are. The basic reason I am concerned you see is, the kind of system we are talking about here that can be of service to the public decision process cannot operate—I emphasize “cannot operate”—unless it will protect personal privacy and security successfully.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Dunn, following that point up, you have made much ado about the fact that we have operated successfully in the Census, and the information contained therein by the Bureau is rather inviolate and yet I have just checked the statute and it says:

The Secretary may, upon a written request, and in his discretion, furnish the Governors of States and territories, courts of record and individuals data for genealogical and other proper purposes from the population, agriculture, and housing schedules prepared under the authority of subchapter (2) of chapter V.

Were you aware of the fact that that information can be given out by the Secretary and that he has that discretion?

Mr. DUNN. I am not an expert on the legal provisions here. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to come back to the earlier point in a moment.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Could you respond to that parenthetically and then we can get back.

Mr. DUNN. I am sure there are hierarchies of legal provisions here and some overrule others.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. This is the only exception to the other limitations that the Secretary has placed upon him. These are exceptions.

Mr. DUNN. I know of no instance in which the census materials have been used—no other instance where it has been used as basically an information-retrieval device about information on an individual, except in the case of genealogical records and there, bear in mind, this is the individual requesting information about himself.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. That is not what the statute permits. It permits much more than that and the thing that distresses me is that it may