

already exist. We have already been successful in negotiating a nuclear test ban treaty with the assistance of a device for the detection of nuclear explosions. We must now ask our technology to help solve some of the other problems it has created.

I think the problem of the protection of individual rights in the use of a Federal data center is one of the problems which our engineers and scientists can help solve, at least temporarily.

I am not personally aware of any efforts in this area, but I think it is an area ripe for consideration. By this I mean it is an area in which it would be most profitable for some of our talented physical and social scientists to get together for a serious discussion of the issues and the potential solutions.

Over the years we have asked our talented young people to become scientists and to produce new devices for civilian and military use, and many of our people have contributed significantly in these efforts. We must now ask for the creation of devices that protect our freedom from the misuse of devices already produced. Automatic data processing equipment was not created without public cost and support; even less so will be devices to protect our freedom. Our forefathers did not gain freedom without risking their lives, fortune, and sacred honor. It appears unlikely that we can retain it without similar risk.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my prepared statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that I can that you or the committee would like to pursue.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Would you care to comment on the proposal before this committee—that of a central data bank—whether or not we are ready and whether we should embark on such a proposal?

Mr. SQUIRES. Mr. Chairman, I have not seen this proposal, nor am I really aware of its economic and political implications in the sense that it is needed by the Government, so in view of my ignorance in this area, I don't think a comment would be appropriate.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Assuming that it could be helpful and that it is needed, from the standpoint of the technology and the lack of our young scientists—or our scientists, as you have pointed out here—to apply their talents to the problem of privacy and safeguards, would it be technologically advisable to embark on this course at this time?

Mr. SQUIRES. From the standpoint of the technology, as I see it, I do not believe we could embark on such a project without knowingly placing ourselves in very grave danger of violating the individual rights of our citizens. Whether this project could be undertaken in pieces in such a way that the amount of intrusion was minimal compared with the rewards that would be gained from such a system, I don't think I could directly comment.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I think you have summed up a problem that is in the area of our concern: that while we have made great advances in technology, there is an imbalance in regard to safeguards set up to protect the individual, his privacy, and his future sufficiently, in light of the advance of technology.

You state here:

However, I feel deeply that we are dealing with a technology that is as potentially dangerous and powerful as a nuclear, explosive device.

Would you care to elaborate on that sentence?