

Mr. SQUIRES. My immediate suggestion would be to sponsor some sort of symposium in which prominent people and talented scientists and social scientists were invited to present papers on this subject and in which a reasonably small number of these people could get together and sit down and think up a lot of ideas.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You think this should be sponsored by the government, or some of the foundations or combinations of both? How can we get those people most qualified to think about this problem, to crank up and start doing something about it?

Mr. SQUIRES. Again the fact that you are holding these hearings I am sure is going to gather a good deal of attention among some of the foundations and perhaps just by virtue of what comes out of this hearing some of them might be willing to sponsor such a symposium. I do not know.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You, however, feel that it is a critical problem in the light of your testimony that we do start gearing our thinking in that direction?

Mr. SQUIRES. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Personally I doubt that the computer community can be expected to come up with these safeguards on its own initiative without some help from foundations or from the Government or both, or some other sources.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Should this not be a joint effort with the social scientists? Some of the social scientists, by the way, are those who are strongly urging this statistical data center. I think there is a general unawareness in the community of the problem. Not an unawareness, perhaps just a lack of attention to the central problem that we are discussing here this morning.

Mr. SQUIRES. I am suggesting partly that it be a joint effort in that as a computer professional I'm really unable to evaluate the problems that the social scientist has. In a discussion between computer professionals and some social scientists, we might be able to come to some understanding as to what kinds of information the social scientists have to put in the machine, and what kinds of information they have to get out. Once we have this understood, the technology is in a much better state of being able to understand how to build some hardware that would have these protections in it.

Some of these protections can be built with software; that is, by programing efforts, but it seems to me basically it has to be built into the hardware, as Mr. Baran is also suggesting. I don't see how it can be built into the hardware unless the people building the hardware are aware of the kinds of safeguards that are really required. This is the reason I suggested a joint effort at this stage as appropriate.

Mr. HORTON. It seems to me also, Mr. Squires, at this point that it is well to differentiate between the control or the regulation in the public aspect—that is, through the Federal Government and governmental activity, and also in the field of the nongovernment.

As I understood the testimony, this is not a problem which could come about 5 or 10 years from now, but it is a problem that faces us right this very minute. We have before us just this one proposal with regard to a centralized data center, or a data bank. But there already is widespread use of this both in Government and outside of Government. So it would seem to me that these considerations of the protection of privacy, from my standpoint anyway, have a Federal interest, even though some of these computer systems are nongovernment.