

York State Chiefs of Police and we had as a guest Chief Harry Knowles who is president of the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police.

Mr. HORTON. You are covered well in the hearing today.

Mr. GALLATI. In the State of New York there are some 70 million files in the various agencies of criminal justice. We are aware of the fact too that in the operation of criminal justice in New York State, as well as elsewhere in this country, the police, the prosecutors, the criminal courts, probation, correction, and parole agencies, deal with the same person through a process, a criminal process, a process of Justice, and the same basic goals are shared by these various agencies for the social good.

In the process, there is a redundancy of investigation. There is also a redundancy of recordkeeping.

And so on the vertical level, if you will, we were made aware in our deliberations of the unitary nature of the process administering criminal justice and, therefore, the compelling conclusion that perhaps a unitary system of compiling and distributing and sharing information would be something to be seriously considered. Information is the raw material of criminal justice action.

The questions that were raised were, of course, what information should be brought together and shared, and we went into a considerable study of these matters and many things were accepted and many things were rejected as appropriate or inappropriate for storage in a central information-sharing system, be it computerized or manual.

It was thought that the tremendous amount of data which would be part of a system of information sharing such as contemplated by the advisory committee, would require the advances available to us in the area of data processing and also, concomitantly, the advances available to us in the fields of communication.

So we developed, with the cooperation of the advisory committee and the consultants from the System Development Corp. a feasibility study which was the beginnings of the creation of the New York State Identification and Intelligence System. That was in 1963, and in 1964 I had the honor of being appointed by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller as director of the emerging New York State Identification and Intelligence System, or NYSIIS, as we call it. My appointment was nonpolitical. I was never asked about my political persuasion, nor, indeed, has any member of the NYSIIS team been so asked.

The system was located in Albany, centrally located within the State of New York, and we dedicated ourselves to this concept of cooperative information sharing among criminal justice agencies, within a context of security and a climate of concern for the protection of individual rights and liberties. NYSIIS, therefore, was given no operational responsibilities and when a statute was passed officially creating the agency, it was established in the executive department, responsible directly to the Governor.

The bill which created NYSIIS and which I would like to later submit with your permission, Mr. Chairman, for the record, establishes NYSIIS as an independent agency having no powers, duties, or facilities to arrest, investigate, prosecute, confine, or supervise; no dual obligation, no feeling upon my part as director that perhaps I would be guilty of nonfeasance if some information indicated to me that I should pursue this investigatively.