

makes no such judgments, and indeed judgments will be made in the future by the same persons, in the same manner, as today.

I would like to point out that while we, of course, are concerned with the negative aspects of the possible violations of civil liberties, civil rights, and constitutional guarantees, that there are a number of very positive effects that this system has.

As a matter of fact, we are very much concerned with the positive effects just as we are with the possible negative implications. For example, we have had a very close relationship with the Vera Foundation and I would like, if I may, at the conclusion of my testimony to submit to you a letter from Mr. Sturz, the director of the Vera Foundation, in which he supports our efforts and recognizes the benefits that can be derived from being privy to, as soon as possible, the fact that a person does or does not have a criminal record which may relate, No. 1, to whether or not he should be bailed; No. 2, whether or not he should be summoned in lieu of arrest; and, thirdly, whether or not he should be released on his own recognizance at the time of judicial determination and also to what extent he should—

Mr. GALLAGHER. This recommendation is in the computer?

Mr. GALLATI. No, Mr. Chairman. May I clarify that, please? The point is that in the Vera Foundation studies on the bail problem and on the summons in lieu of arrest situation they found that it was possible, where a person could not otherwise raise bail, because of being indigent or not willing to take those steps necessary to notify friends, concerning the plight of the person arrested, that an investigation, rapidly conducted by representatives of the Vera Foundation, could determine whether the person had roots in the community, was not dangerous, not a dangerous person to the community, that he could be relied upon to appear for trial. This proved to be most successful and many people were released on their own recognizance on this basis. Likewise, many people, in experiments conducted by the New York Police Planning Bureau in New York City and by the Vera Foundation, it was found that a summons could be issued in lieu of arrest.

So that the indignity of a person spending a night in jail for a minor offense could be avoided, in cases, such as we found in the 14th precinct on 30th Street, where many housewives, people who were perfectly reputable, succumbed to a momentary decision to steal a slip or other item of clothing, and were arrested for shoplifting. These ladies because of their tremendous embarrassment were unwilling to notify their husbands or their parents, but were saved from this indignity of being locked up overnight with people of lesser repute. And, of course, the obvious saving that this ultimately will entail in terms of our unhappy police responsibility of keeping people in the lockup overnight, is quite obvious. But I would like to point out also that the Vera Foundation is now moving into the area of more serious crimes, crimes which are fingerprintable. The utilization of NYSIIS for the rapid transmission of fingerprints in those cases where fingerprints are available, of course, means that many people will not have to be kept in jail overnight, and in the alternative, may be summoned and, in other cases, released on their own recognizance.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Are you tied in with the Federal Bureau of Investigation?