

ating their professional actions, an ability to see these actions against a humanistic background. Moreover, they operate under a code of ethics which requires them to place the needs of patients above all other considerations—a code incorporated 25 centuries ago in the Oath of Hippocrates, an oath still taken by young men and women embarking on a medical career.

To Greece we owe the noble idea that special knowledge and skill ought to be used to benefit man, rather than for personal aggrandizement or power, or as a means of extracting maximum gain from those in need of the services of men possessing special expertise. This concept of a *trusteeship of knowledge* could well be applied to *all* whose knowledge of science and technology surpasses that of the lay public, as it now is to physicians and surgeons. I have long advocated that engineering pattern itself after medicine and law, thus becoming a truly “learned” profession. It has, I believe, attained that status in some countries, though not in mine.

These are my suggestions; others may have better ones to offer. What seems to me of utmost importance is that we never for a moment forget that *a free society centers on man*. It gives paramount consideration to human rights, interests and needs. Society ceases to be free if a pattern of life develops where technology, not man, becomes central to its purpose. We must not permit this to happen lest the human liberties for which mankind has fought, at so great a cost of effort and sacrifice, will be extinguished.

QUESTIONS OF INVASION OF PRIVACY RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL DATA CENTER

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Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, under the direction of the Honorable William L. Dawson, chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, the Special Subcommittee on Invasion of Privacy, made up of my distinguished colleagues Congressmen Benjamin Rosenthal, of New York, and Frank Horton, of New York, has just conducted a series of hearings on the proposed establishment of a National Data Center by the Federal Government.

As chairman of this special subcommittee, it is my desire to present to the membership today some of my thoughts and findings upon the conclusion of those hearings.

Testimony before the subcommittee has illustrated first of all the great technological progress which has been made in the field of computer science and data processing. The potential of this technology and its value to our modern society are certainly impressive.

But the hearings have indicated as well an urgent need for a corollary study to determine the direction which our Nation will permit technology to take and the great responsibility we face to protect the public interest and rights of the individual.

Modern scientific achievement goes far beyond the full comprehension and knowledge of most of us. Yet its influence upon the life of each citizen is ever-increasing. As we realize our own inadequacy to evaluate an issue involving scientific technology, we seem to move toward an ever-increasing submission to the domination of those who are expert in the scientific disciplines.

Society borders on forgetting that technology is its own creation, to be guided and directed along the course which will provide its members most with the full benefits of scientific knowledge. The people seem dangerously prepared to surrender their age-old respect for the vast capabilities of the human mind and personality to the impressive and sometimes overwhelming knowledge which the scientific elite alone have mastered. Somewhat intimidated by the mystery of science, the average citizen in our Nation often seems reconciled to the sacrifice of individual liberties in the awesome name of “progress.”

Moreover, this malaise threatens to distort our traditional concept of law and its meaning to society. The forefathers of this Nation defined a legal code to protect the rights of Americans against government encroachment. The ultimate value of this code, which we know as our Constitution, centers in its flexibility, its adaptability to the needs of each new generation.

In science, however, the term “law” takes on new meaning. It defines the regularity of physical phenomena and its definitions seem synonymous with cold