

"Computerized central storage of information would remove what surely has been one of the strongest allies of the claim to privacy—the inefficiency of man and the infallibility of his memory."

Thus, greater efficiency in Government operations would be paid for at the far greater expense of weakening the right to privacy of all American citizens. Surely this is too exorbitant a price to pay for an economized filing system.

In his essay entitled "Machinemade Justice: Some Implications," Prof. Joseph J. Spengler discussed certain implications of the use of computers in the definition and the administration of justice. His essay illustrated how and why certain biases may be introduced along with the use of computers in the area of law.

His final warning seems to the point:

"Great care must be exercised to avert the biases, the distortions, and the probable miscarriages of justice . . . If computers and other instruments are to be used, every precaution must be taken lest the mechanical servant become master, and a tyrannical one at that."

We are particularly concerned with the threat which a possible future Federal dossier bank represents to our Nation's basic Judeo-Christian doctrine which provides man with the unlimited right to make amends for his mistakes and to begin again. Man can forgive and forget the trespasses of his fellow man, but computers do not forget and they are incapable of forgiving. Rash actions one may have taken in one's youth and which one regrets in his maturity would be recorded for posterity on the computer's tape. Mistakes in judgment which are later regretted and repaired in an individual's personal and business life would remain imprinted indelibly on his computer data card. Thus, computerized files could become a bank of static, petrified and tyrannical information which can be used again and again to the disadvantage and harm of the American citizen.

We are now on the brink of making a fundamental change in our society which will destroy the basic philosophy of letting a man start anew, his record unblemished by past mistakes for which he has paid his just debt to society. We appear to be moving slowly but steadily toward a doctrine of complete scientific objectivity which will categorize and catalog each aspect of individuality, leaving as an end result a stack of computer program cards where once were human beings.

During the last decade, tremendous advancements have been made in the fields of psychology, sociology, political science and economics. Emerging under the new title of the "behavioral sciences," these disciplines have delved deeply into the complex problem of how man affects his society and how social institutions affect man. It is predicted that within 30 years, the behavioral scientists will be able to produce the achievers in our society at will. The August 15 issue of Newsweek reported that current research indicates that—

"The achieving child will be the product of order, home and school environment, and other factors under the control of parents—or the state."

Newsweek also predicted that within this time period, sociologists will have developed the "complete picture of manpower flow in our Nation." Orville Brim, president of the Russell Sage Foundation—a private institution for research—was quoted as saying:

"Incentives like money, and educational opportunity could be controlled so that people are properly distributed."

The prospect of such social manipulation is a fascinating one, but it also raises serious questions, the answers to which are at present unknown. Who will define a "proper distribution" of financial and educational opportunity and who can guarantee that society will use such manipulative techniques constructively?

Experts in the field of computer science have joined with behavioral scientists, combining the knowledge of both disciplines in conducting extensive research into the question of man's relationship to the society in which he lives. The widespread use of computers has greatly facilitated the accumulation of data and the transformation of varied and unrelated information into clear and meaningful statements on man's behavior and the pattern of his actions in the past.

But it is essential to remember that the computer cannot predict infallibly what a man will do in the future; it cannot set down axiomatic laws to govern a man's action at any given moment in the next hour, the next day or the next year. A computer cannot measure courage, loyalty or love.