

part of their previous mission. If you were to associate these two you would find they wouldn't have very much functionally or operationally in common. I would think the size and scope and operational problems of the latter would either swamp the functions of the Council of Economic Advisers, or else they would just continue to operate independently.

Senator MILLER. Somebody is going to be swamped. They are going to take on something that they have not had before. The Council of Economic Advisers is not exclusively advising the President. Here is a publication—the Economic Indicators, issued monthly. This is not prepared for the President. It is prepared for the Congress.

Mr. DUNN. True.

Senator MILLER. It seems to me one of the vital functions of the Data Center would be to enable Congress to have data readily available which would take less time to legislate in a more timely fashion and in a more responsive fashion than we are doing now. So, I am not troubled by the swamping results. Somebody is going to get that. But somebody is going to have to make a decision where this is going to be located and the Council of Economic Advisers might be a possible source for this.

One thing that I am wondering is whether or not we are troubled more by the lack of timeliness of the data or more by the lack of responsiveness of the data we are getting. What I am getting at, for example, is this: Are you familiar with the report of this Subcommittee on Economic Statistics of the Joint Economic Committee?

Mr. DUNN. I have not read it with care. I have seen it.

Senator MILLER. I think a reading of that report indicates that we were not troubled by the lack of rapidity as by the lack of responsiveness of the data. We were not getting figures on underemployment and we were not getting figures which really reveal how much certain unemployment was and in what sectors of society it was. We were not troubled about getting the data. We were not getting the right data. I am wondering if we are putting the emphasis on the wrong place here, because this Data Center is not going to be worth anything if we do not have the kind of input needed, which is our major problem here.

Mr. DUNN. The emphasis on these reports has been clearly on the problem of the appropriateness of the data used rather than timeliness and the ability to have flexibility and record-matching association, so you can bring records together in ways that would illuminate the relationships between economic and social phenomenon.

I think that, for certain problems of public policy, timeliness is not as important an attribute. It happens to be the one we have become most exercised about earliest in our history. We have placed great emphasis on timeliness because of our concern with business-cycle phenomena, national income, and so forth. We have been concerned about what the economy is doing currently during this quarter and this month. This has placed great emphasis on timeliness and a substantial amount of resources, interest, and attention has gone into making the data just as current and timely as it can be for these purposes. But for the vast bulk of the other kinds of policy problems for which information is critical, the issue of timeliness is nowhere near as important a problem as the ability to associate records and the ability to relate records over historical timespan in the way that will establish trends and give it some notion as to the way changes are taking place. It is these uses and requirements that have been most poorly satisfied and it