

is in the interest of providing more appropriately for these requirements that such recommendations as were made earlier have been made.

Senator MILLER. I could not help but think when you were talking about this data center in answer to questions of the chairman, that it seems to me there are many types of statistics that are peculiar only to one agency. For example, the Department of Agriculture, the Post Office Department, Defense Department—statistics that are vital to those agencies but are really of no interest to anybody else. We are going to have to make a pretty careful survey to determine what types of data would be handled by the data center and what types would be left exclusively under the control of the agency, would we not?

Mr. DUNN. Yes, sir. One thing should be clear at the outset. As the various committees have considered this problem and as the Bureau of the Budget has pondered these issues initially, there has never been any thought that a centralized statistical system of either limited or general type would undertake to centralize all of the statistical functions of the Federal Government. Many important statistical programs are agency-specific—that is, they are central to the operating missions of the agency. Certainly these programs belong in those agencies under agency control. The idea here is that those statistical programs and those statistical resources from the agencies that could be made to serve a general-purpose, public-servicing function would be the ones that would be subject to this kind of reorganization and reform.

Senator MILLER. My time is up. I have just one more question, Mr. Chairman, if I may?

Chairman TALMADGE. Proceed.

Senator MILLER. I am wondering if, before we established a national data center, with the ramifications which appear possible here, it might not be a good idea to first have a pilot project. What I have in mind is this: The Air Force for a number of years has had computer programs. About 3 or 4 years ago they decided they ought to have a sort of service center where experimental types of use agencies would be the function. I believe they set this up in Dayton, Ohio. I think it has had good success. It has not served to centralize the data; however, it has served to run experimental types of programs with a view to improving the system—new uses, extrapolations, for example.

I wonder if we might not start out, let us say, in a experimental type project to see what its potential would be before we get too deeply involved in something like this. Do you not think this may be a good approach?

Mr. DUNN. Well, I think it has to be a good approach because I think it is really, in the end, the only approach. Let me explain what I mean by that.

I think there has developed a false impression that somehow or other what is proposed, and, indeed, what is possible is to establish overnight something that would represent a complete, de facto, operational national data center. This simply cannot be done. In my testimony I tried to indicate that in order to bring about the kinds of reforms that would really make possible record matching, for analytical purposes of the kind that we are talking about, the changes would have to take place would reach all the way back into the statistical collecting and tabulating procedures of the agencies—establishment of standards and things of this kind. These things don't happen over-