

to have interagency authority to obtain computer tapes, and the ability to service different agencies and groups outside the Government.

Chairman TALMADGE. Where is the bulk of the statistics now, in the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Agriculture, HEW, or where?

Mr. RUGGLES. That depends whether you consider tax returns, for example, as statistics. Tax returns and the social security information probably are the largest bodies of data. However, both of these agencies are not considered to be primarily statistical agencies.

In terms of actual data, I believe the Census Bureau is the largest. In terms of budget, the Department of Agriculture may be the largest. However, the Bureau of Labor Statistics is also very important.

Chairman TALMADGE. Thank you very much, Professor Ruggles and Dr. Dunn.

Before adjourning, I would like to place in the record at the close of today's proceedings, a recent address by Dr. Dunn on "The Idea of a National Data Center and the Issue of Personal Privacy." The subcommittee will stand in recess until 10 a.m., tomorrow, when we will meet in room 1202 of the New Senate Office Building. The witnesses will be John Aiken, executive director, Federal Statistics User's Conference, and Frederick Stephan, professor of social statistics, Princeton University, past president, American Statistical Association.

Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 11:56 a.m., the subcommittee recessed to reconvene on Thursday, May 18, 1967, at 10 a.m., in room 1202, New Senate Office Building.)

((The address by Dr. Dunn, referred to above, follows:))

THE IDEA OF A NATIONAL DATA CENTER AND THE ISSUE OF PERSONAL PRIVACY¹

Edgar S. Dunn, Jr., Resources for the Future, Inc.²

In late 1965 a report was submitted to the Office of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget entitled "A Review of Proposals for a National Data Center."³ That report analyzed some of the anomalies that prevent the most effective use of the resources of the Federal Statistical System in the establishment of public policy, the management of public affairs, and the conduct of research. It recommended changes in the mission of the Federal Statistical System that could transform it into a more effective source of information services for today's needs.

During the time that this report was under review by the Administration it became "caught up" in a substantial public controversy over the alleged threat to personal privacy embodied in its recommendations. The report and the Administration's intentions were made the object of hearings before the subcommittees of Senator Long of Missouri in the Senate and Congressman Gallagher of New Jersey in the House. Through extensive comment in the public press, the report acquired the image of a design to establish a gargantuan centralized national data center calculated to bring Orwell's "1984" at least as close as 1970. Is the theme of this paper that the image embodied in the "purple phrases" that characterized the public reports do not reflect either the realities of the proposals or the balance that Congressman Gallagher and Senator Long attempted to bring to this issue in the hearings. The author wishes to take this means of correcting certain obvious misinterpretations and set forth more explicitly some views on the very important issue of personal privacy.

The topic will be presented in two progressions: from the particular to the general and from the short run to the long-run. We must start with the particular:

¹ Adapted from an address presented before the MENSA Society, New York, Oct. 21, 1966.

² Reprinted from *The American Statistician*, February 1967.

³ Published by the Office of Statistical Standards as "Statistical Evaluation Report #6."