

there are cases which exist because of different needs which must be served for specialized purposes. How to identify all the areas of duplication is quite a task and that all agencies should continue to be alert to the problem of avoiding duplication. It is a subject that our committee will give a lot of further consideration to.

Mr. Moor would like to add something to that.

Mr. Moor. Mr. Chairman, I think my answer to your question would be, essentially—and I am sure I will be in trouble with this with my business colleagues—that the amount of duplication is not great. The amount of complexity, particularly for specific types of studies, can be immense, but the amount of duplication I don't think, as such, is great.

Chairman TALMADGE. Are there any estimates of the costs incurred by the public in complying with requests for data?

I frequently have small businesses telling me they have to keep two or three secretaries working on such information all the time.

Mr. Moor. I don't have any estimates of cost. But I would like to qualify my last answer, particularly with respect to small businesses, since you have raised it.

I think there is substantial duplication as far as small businesses are concerned, particularly as between various levels of government—Federal, State, and local. The classic example is particularly with respect to alternative types of tax collection and alternative types of classification.

Mr. FRIEDMAN. Dr. Moor just touched on a point that I wanted to make that I think we have to separate here the reporting systems that flow out of legal requirements, that is, tax laws, whether they are local, State, or Federal. In many respects the complaints that I have heard relate to this kind of problem. I think we have to make a distinction between that and the collection of data by the Government on the basis of voluntary responses.

Chairman TALMADGE. Do you think it might be wise to have some provision for notice or hearings before the Government changes its procedures, systems of reporting, and so on?

Mr. FRIEDMAN. I am not sure I follow you.

Chairman TALMADGE. Do you think it might be wise if Congress passed legislation providing that Federal agencies give notice and an opportunity to be heard to the users and those who provide the data before an agency may change definitions or collecting procedures? Something similar to the Administrative Procedure Act.

Mr. Moor. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I think, in general, this is done extensively by the individual agencies at present. This is not done, obviously, with all the users or reporters of data, but it is done with samples of them. As a matter of fact, a genius frequently conduct hearings at which they work out mutually satisfactory arrangements. It is done quite effectively at present, especially by regulatory agencies, FCC, FAA, and so on. Obviously, any time any changes are made people are going to be discontented because that is the nature of change. Generally, the amount of communications with the responders is quite good.

Chairman TALMADGE. To get back to Mr. Stephan. Hasn't the concept of a national data center already received intensive study?

Mr. STEPHAN. I believe a great deal of study has been given to the proposal of the national data center and there are several very excel-