

Representative RUMSFELD. There is a specific provision in the bill, exempt from the public disclosure requirements, certain types of information, for the most part voluntarily given.

Mr. BOWMAN. And, until we are instructed otherwise, we will advise the other Federal agencies and the business community that this Public Information Act does not infringe upon the confidentiality of reports to the Federal Government of a statistical character so far as the individual is concerned.

Representative RUMSFELD. This is such a fascinating area. I have a great many questions. Let me just ask one other which is a little off the beam. I serve on the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. We have had before the subcommittee a bill which will bring the Federal Government, specifically the Bureau of Standards, into the business of developing standard reference data, specific information, some of which the Bureau has in the past developed, other information which has been generated through the private sector. It will then serve as a focal point for the development and storage and dissemination of this information. There have been statements made to the effect that this will save in excess of \$500,000,000 for private concerns, possibly billions, depending on one's imagination. It struck me if, in fact, the development of this information, and storage, and dissemination of the information is going to save the private sector so much money, why does not some ambitious person in the private sector undertake to develop this information or pay the Federal Government for that information that it develops, and then sell it at a substantially reduced rate from the cost per item because it will be disseminated to a substantial number of private concerns that theoretically, by the testimony of everyone before the committee, will have use for the information. I suppose the same question can, in some areas of your work, be transferred over here.

Are there private organizations that do a good job in this area where there is a market for the information and is this private activity growing or dying out? Is there a future for it? Is there some flaw in our private system that prevents or inhibits people from moving into this area? I happen to know the Standard Rate & Data Co. in Illinois has done a good job of accumulating information that is available and selling it at a reasonable profit. They have done a fine job of providing a service for people, of accumulating information and selling it, and in addition, selling advertising in their very fine publications and making additional money on the advertising.

Now, what is going on? Why is not this happening more?

Mr. BOWMAN. Well, it is happening quite a lot and, of course, we recognize the fact that many statistical—most statistical and all Government publications are not copyrighted. I know several areas in which materials have just been taken, reorganized, put into a better package for usefulness of a customer list, and sold. But, I cannot tell—I cannot comment really on the particular Bureau of Standards project that you talked about but I can turn it around to my data center and say why I do not think anybody else, even though there is a big demand for this information, why I do not believe anybody else could take the information and package it through a data center and sell it. It is because we could not give to such a unit the detailed information about individual respondents.