

easily become another link in the continuous chain of interconnected personal information we leave behind us as we proceed through life. The danger, as I see it, is not the lone notation of telephone calls, but rather the blending of this information with other personal information—birth records, military records, tax records, social security records. There has been a great deal of discussion recently of compilations of this data by private industry, State and local governments, and, perhaps best known, the Federal Government's proposed National Data Bank. My fear is that someday all of this information will become mixed together in a central bank, easily accessible through the magical mystique of the computer.

Mr. Chairman, I am hopeful that use of these telephone number recording devices will be limited and that methods will be employed to protect confidentiality.

Mr. Chairman, obscene and harassing calls can only be stamped out by a concentrated and coordinated campaign by the Federal Government, State law enforcement agencies, the Nation's telephone companies and concerned private citizens. The bill I have offered, H.R. 611, provides for the necessary Federal participation in this nationwide campaign. I am hopeful that this distinguished committee will act favorably and bring this bill with the amendment suggested to the floor at the earliest possible time.

Thank you.

Mr. KORNEGAY. Thank you for your views, Mr. Gallagher. Are there any questions? If not, we shall hear next from our colleague and member of this committee, the Honorable Lionel Van Deerlin. Mr. Van Deerlin has introduced similar legislation in his bill, H.R. 1422. Please proceed, Mr. Van Deerlin.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. LIONEL VAN DEERLIN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Mr. Chairman, fellow subcommittee members, a Federal law for cracking down on abusive telephone callers should be enacted without delay.

There are few offenses more sinister than the menacing call made from behind a coward's shield of anonymity. Confronted by an unknown and unseen malevolence, the victim may be terrified as she contemplates what might happen next. She can hang up the phone—but the doubts and distress that were prompted by the call cannot be banished so easily. The perpetrator might have no intention of following up his subtle first aggression—but the victim can only guess at his ultimate intentions.

I am told that all 50 States now have statutes of their own covering various types of obscene, harassing, or annoying telephone calls. But I believe that Federal legislation such as the subcommittee is now considering is also needed. At the very least, it would have a deterrent effect on would-be abusive callers. It would also plug a gap in our communications laws, and give the telephone companies a practical legal tool in dealing with the demented individuals who misuse the telephone in this fashion.

I believe that many a potential abusive caller would think twice before dialing if he knew he faced possible penalties. My own bill,