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NATIONAL BROADCAST EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

MAYFLOWER HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D. C.

10:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974



IT IS TRULY A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN YOU THIS
MORNING. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE MET WITH THE LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BROADCAST EDITORIALS. JUST ONE MONTH AGO
I SPOKE--ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME--TO THE ASSOCIATION OF EDITORIAL
CARTOONISTS. THE CARTOONISTS SAID THEY INVITED ME TO GET A BETTER
IDEA OF MY TRUE IDENTITY.

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS SOME CARTOONS APPEARED SHOWING THREE
JERRY FORDS, AND CARRYING THE CAPTION---"WILL THE REAL JERRY FORD
PLEASE STAND UP!"

I STILL LIKE CARTOONS AND CARTOONISTS.

I HOPE YOU EDITORIAL WRITERS LIKE THE REAL JERRY FORD.

BECAUSE, EVEN WHEN THEY HIT HARD, I LIKE EDITORIALS---

THINK THEY ARE WORTH READING AND WATCHING. AND I LIKE EDITORIAL WRITERS.

I MAY DISAGREE WITH THEM ON OCCASION. ESPECIALLY THE ONES
WHO URGE ME TO STOP TRAVELING AND TO STOP TALKING.



BUT I BELIEVE THAT PUBLIC OFFICIALS--PARTICULARLY THOSE OF
US IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT--HAVE A DUTY TO INFORM THE CITIZENS
OF THIS COUNTRY. WE IN PUBLIC OFFICE HAVE A DUTY TO SPEAK OUT AS
OFTEN AS WE CAN, SO LONG AS WE DON'T INTERFERE WITH OUR OFFICIAL
DUTIES.



I AM PROUD OF THE FACT THAT I HAVE HELD MORE THAN 40 NEWS
CONFERENCES IN THE SOME 26 WEEKS I HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE. IN EVERY
CITY I VISIT--IF THERE IS TIME--I TRY TO MEET WITH REPORTERS.

I TALK WITH NEWS PEOPLE, IN AND OUT OF NEWS CONFERENCES,
AS OFTEN AS I CAN. AND I TALK WITH AS MANY CITIZENS AS I CAN ON
MY TRIPS.



I FIND I'M LEARNING A LOT FROM THOSE CONVERSATIONS. AND
WHEN I SPEAK, I HOPE I CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEMS AND ATTITUDES.

I INTEND TO KEEP THIS TWO-WAY CONVERSATION GOING AS LONG
AS I HOLD OFFICE.

AND IT IS IN THAT SENSE THAT I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
THIS MORNING A MATTER I CONSIDER OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO EVERY
CITIZEN OF OUR COUNTRY. AND OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO YOU, WHO ARE
RIGHTLY CONCERNED WITH SEPARATING THE SIGNIFICANT FROM THE
INSIGNIFICANT IN THE FLOW OF EVENTS.



RIGHT NOW, THE HEAVY FLOW OF NEWS ON THE WATERGATE MATTER
IS OBSCURING A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US.

ONE OF THESE IS THE PROBLEM OF INSURING PERSONAL PRIVACY
IN A COMPUTERIZED SOCIETY WHICH THREATENS TO OPEN THE MOST PERSONAL
AFFAIRS OF EACH OF US TO ANYONE WITH ACCESS TO COMPUTER-STORED
INFORMATION.

I BELIEVE THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS WE
FACE TODAY. AND ONE OF THE LEAST-REALIZED.



ONE PART OF THE PROBLEM INVOLVES A HUGE NEW COMPUTER NETWORK PLAN LABELED FEDNET. EVER HEARD OF IT? FEW PEOPLE HAD UNTIL RECENTLY. THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED FEDNET WHICH COULD BE THE LARGEST NON-MILITARY COMPUTER NETWORK IN U.S. HISTORY. IT WOULD HAVE A FUTURE POTENTIAL FOR LINKING LARGE AMOUNTS OF PERSONAL INFORMATION INTO A MASSIVE COMPUTER BANK. THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE CONSIDERATION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE PRIVACY OF THAT INFORMATION IN THE PLANNING FOR THIS GIANT NETWORK. THAT WORRIED ME.



AS YOU MAY KNOW, I AM CHAIRMAN OF THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL'S
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT TO
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION TO PROTECT PERSONAL PRIVACY IN
JUST SUCH CASES AS THIS.



I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT---PARTLY AT MY URGING---THE G-S-A
HAS AGREED TO RE-EVALUATE THE FEDNET PLANS, AND HAS PROMISED THAT
FURTHER ACTION WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENT OF PROTECTION GUIDELINES.
I FEEL THIS REPRESENTS A BIG PLUS FOR PRIVACY.

BUT THE PROBLEM OF GUIDELINES STILL HAS TO BE WORKED OUT.

AND THERE, OUR COMMITTEE MAY BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE. JUST TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVACY WILL MEET TO DISCUSS WAYS OF PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY, SOME OF WHICH COULD APPLY AS GUIDELINES FOR FEDNET.

I HOPE THE COMMITTEE WILL AGREE TO CHART SEVERAL WAYS TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS OVER THE STORING AND USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

IT IS NOT AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS.



THE QUESTIONS THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER INVOLVE
LITERALLY MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AND BILLIONS OF BITS OF PERSONAL
INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE AMERICANS.

PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU VISUALIZE THE PROBLEM THIS WAY:

TRY TO PICTURE IN YOUR MIND ALL THE INFORMATION IN THE
SOCIAL SECURITY FILES.

OR THE H-E-W FILES ON WELFARE CASES, AND ON EDUCATIONAL
GRANTS.



OR H-U-D'S FILES ON URBAN RENEWAL AND HOUSING PROGRAMS.

OR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S REPORTS FROM BUSINESSMEN
ON JUST ABOUT EVERY FACTOR IN THEIR BUSINESSES.

OR THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S TREMENDOUS FILE OF
REPORTS ON FARMS AND FARMERS.



THAT'S JUST A BEGINNING. BUT KEEPING THOSE IN MIND---HOW
WOULD YOU PROCEED TO DETERMINE WHAT IN THOSE FILES IS PERSONAL
INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS?

HOW WOULD YOU WORK OUT WAYS OF DETERMINING WHAT PART OF
THAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL?

HOW WOULD YOU APPLY GUIDELINES TO MAKE SURE THAT
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION STAYED CONFIDENTIAL?



THAT'S THE TASK OUR COMMITTEE FACES. WE NEED A MOST
CAREFUL STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE WE CAN
DEVELOP ADEQUATE PROTECTION POLICIES. WHEN OUR FULL COMMITTEE
MEETS IN TWO WEEKS, I HOPE IT WILL APPLY ITSELF TO WAYS OF GETTING
THIS INFORMATION....AND GETTING IT QUICKLY.



ANOTHER AREA OF CONCERN IS THE USE--SOMETIMES MISUSE--
OF NAMES ON MAILING LISTS MAINTAINED BY THE FEDERAL AGENCIES. I
HOPE THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM AND SETTLE ON SOME
GUIDELINES TO PREVENT SUCH LISTS FROM BEING MISUSED, BOTH BY THE
FEDERAL AGENCIES THEMSELVES AND BY ANYONE TO WHOM THE AGENCY MIGHT
SELL THE LIST FOR OTHER PURPOSES.



MORE INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION IS NEEDED FOR THE CONSUMER ON INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS. WE HAVE THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT. PERHAPS WE MIGHT LOOK TO EXPANDING THE PRINCIPLE OF THAT ACT TO VOLUNTARY CODES COVERING TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING PROPERTY AND SERVICES AND SIMILAR PERSONAL OR FAMILY MATTERS.

TWO NEW AREAS INVOLVED IN THE "WIRED SOCIETY" CONCEPT WE HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT ARE LIKELY TO TRIGGER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING.





THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT TECHNOLOGY HAS BROUGHT US
TO THE WIRED SOCIETY CAPABILITY. YOU CERTAINLY HAVE HEARD OF THE
EXPERIMENTS IN USING CREDIT CARDS COUPLED WITH BANK ACCOUNTS, TO
PROVIDE COMPUTERIZED RECORDS FROM THE CASH REGISTER AT THE POINT
OF SALE TO THE BANK AND BACK AGAIN. BUT IF IT'S YOUR CREDIT CARD
AND YOUR FINANCES INVOLVED, YOU OUGHT TO BE ASSURED THAT NO ONE
IS TAPPING THAT COMPUTER TO COMPILE A VERY PERSONAL HISTORY OF YOUR
SPENDING HABITS. THIS QUESTION MUST BE MET AND SOON.

CABLE-TV IS NOW SO WIDESPREAD WE HAVE TO START THINKING ABOUT WAYS TO PREVENT ELECTRONIC SNOOPING, SO THAT INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AS A CABLE SUBSCRIBER, OR ABOUT THE SERVICES YOU ARE GETTING DOES NOT GET SIPHONED OFF FOR MISUSE.



THE COMMITTEE, I HOPE WILL CONSIDER THESE MATTERS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. AND LOOMING IN THE BACKGROUND IS THE BIGGEST AND BROADEST QUESTION OF THEM ALL: HOW DO WE APPLY WHATEVER SAFEGUARDS ARE DEVELOPED?

AS I SEE IT, THERE ARE TWO APPROACHES TO USE IN PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL.

WE CAN SET UP A SUPER-FEDERAL AGENCY--SIMILAR TO, BUT MORE POWERFUL THAN--THE F-C-C. A SUPER-AGENCY THAT WOULD POLICE EVERYTHING. IT IS AN EASY WAY. BUT IT IS A DANGEROUS WAY.

I HAVE GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THAT APPROACH. ANY AGENCY SET UP TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION COULD ALSO HAVE ACCESS TO THAT INFORMATION.



SO HOW DO YOU POLICE THE POLICEMAN, TO INSURE HE ISN'T MISUSING HIS POWER? AND MAKE NO MISTAKE--SUPERVISING THAT GREAT STORE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION COULD PRESENT GREAT TEMPTATION FOR MISUSE IF SOME UNSCRUPULOUS PERSON OR GROUP WANTED TO MOVE THAT WAY.

I LIKE THE ALTERNATIVE. IT'S NOT AS EASY. BUT I BELIEVE THE INDIVIDUAL SHOULD BE HIS OWN POLICEMAN. THIS APPROACH IS COMPLICATED, AND DIFFICULT. BUT TO MY THINKING, IT IS FAR SUPERIOR TO THE IDEA OF A BIG BROTHER AGENCY TAKING CONTROL.



AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE INDIVIDUAL WAY WOULD NEED A LOT OF
HELP FROM YOU IN THE MEDIA. THE CITIZEN MUST KNOW WHERE INFORMATION
ABOUT HIM IS STORED, WHY IT IS NEEDED, AND WHAT INFORMATION THE
FILES CONTAIN. EACH CITIZEN MUST HAVE ACCESS TO THAT INFORMATION WHEN
HE WANTS ACCESS. A FEW EXCEPTIONS ARE NECESSARY--SIMILAR TO SOME OF
THOSE IN THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. BUT IN THE VAST NUMBER
OF CASES, ACCESS SHOULD BE GIVEN.



RIGHT NOW, GENERALLY, THE AVERAGE CITIZEN HAS NO READY
MEANS OF KNOWING WHAT INFORMATION ABOUT HIM IS ON FILE---NOR HOW
SUCH INFORMATION IS BEING USED.

SO WE---YOU IN THE MEDIA, AND THOSE OF US IN THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT---HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO IN GETTING PEOPLE MORE INVOLVED
IN THIS PRIVACY PROBLEM.



I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVACY
CAN LEAD THE WAY. THE COMMITTEE STAFF, ALONG WITH THE OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND CONCERNED EXECUTIVE AGENCIES ALREADY
HAVE PROPOSED SOME NEEDED LEGISLATION.



THE DRAFT BILL WOULD PROVIDE FOR SOME FUNDAMENTAL SAFEGUARDS:

--IT WOULD REQUIRE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ITS RECORD-
KEEPING SYSTEMS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.

--IT WOULD PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL TO INSPECT
HIS RECORDS, AND TO CHALLENGE THE ACCURACY AND EVEN THE VERY NEED
FOR THOSE RECORDS.



--IT WOULD PREVENT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM USING THE
INFORMATION COLLECTED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN WHICH IT WAS COLLECTED
WITHOUT NOTICE TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR PERMISSION FROM HIM.

--IT WOULD REQUIRE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH
REASONABLE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF
SUCH INFORMATION.

THIS IS NOT A PARTISAN MATTER. AND WE HOPE THAT AGREEMENT
CAN BE REACHED ON LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE IN TIME TO GET CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION THIS YEAR.



I THINK WE ARE MOVING TO MEET THE THREATS RAISED BY THE
TREMENDOUS ADVANCES IN ELECTRONIC RECORD KEEPING. BUT WE HAVE TO
MOVE RAPIDLY TO STAY AHEAD. AND I LAY UPON YOU THE CHALLENGE TO
HELP ALERT OUR CITIZENS TO THE POSSIBLE DANGERS THEY FACE; TO THE
PROPOSED PROTECTIVE DEVICES; AND TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEEPING
INFORMED.

YOU WILL BE DOING YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN
A MAJOR SERVICE.

THANK YOU.



MESSAGE FOR ROBERT HARTMANN:

We are dexting the THIPD draft of the proposed speech for the Broadcast Editorial Association session on Wed., June 26. It has been ~~revised~~ examined and cleared by three members of the staff of the Privacy Committee, including Deputy ~~Executive~~ Director ~~Executive~~ Doug Metz.

The speech is based mainly on 8 proposals which the Committee Staff will present the Committee on July 10th. The Vice President, I understand, has not yet been briefed on the contents of the staff recommendations. They are merely alluded to in the text of the speech, since the staff wanted no formal announcement of the contents of the proposed text.

Please excuse the rough copy, but it is very late, and I didn't want to keep the girls, so I retyped the final draft ~~in~~ in my own hunt-and-peck style. I hope it is readable.

We will need to have the final version Tuesday morning at the latest. It for reproduction purposes. It would be easier if we could get it Monday.



DRAFT NO. 3

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
NATIONAL BROADCAST EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
MAYFLOWER HOTEL, WASHINGTON D. C.
10:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974

It is truly a great pleasure for me to join you this morning. This is the first time I have met with the ladies and gentlemen responsible for broadcast editorials. Just one month ago I spoke--also for the first time--to the Association of Editorial Cartoonists. The cartoonists said they invited me to get a better idea of my true identity.

In the next few days some cartoons appeared showing three Jerry Fords, and carrying the caption---"Will the REAL Jerry Ford please stand up!"

I still like cartoons and cartoonists.

I hope you editorial writers like the REAL Jerry Ford.

Because, even when they hit hard, I like editorials---think they are worth reading and watching. And I like editorial writers.

I may disagree with them on occasion. Especially the ones who urge me to stop traveling and to stop talking.

But I believe that public officials--particularly those of us in the federal government--have a duty to inform the citizens of this country. We in public office have a duty to speak out as often as we can, so long as we don't interfere with our official duties.

I am proud of the fact that I have held more than 40 news conferences in the some 26 weeks I have been in office. In every city I visit--if there is time--I try to meet with reporters.

I talk with news people, in and out of news conferences, as often as I can. And I talk with as many citizens as I can on my trips.

I find I'm learning a lot from those conversations. And when I speak, I





-2-

hope I contribute to a better understanding of the federal government's problems and attitudes.

I intend to keep this two-way conversation going ~~with~~ as long as I hold office.

And it is in that sense that I want to discuss with you this morning a matter I consider of major importance to every citizen of our country. And of special interest to you, who are rightly concerned with ~~making~~ separating the significant from the ~~xxxxxxx~~ insignificant in the flow of events.

Right now, the heavy flow of news on the Watergate matter is ~~xxxx~~ obscuring a number of issues of great importance to all of us.

One of these is the problem of insuring personal privacy in a computerized society which threatens to open the most personal affairs of each of us to anyone with access to computer-stored information.

I believe this is one of the most serious problems we face today. And one of the least-realized.

One part of the problem involves a huge new computer network ~~xxxx~~ plan labeled FEDNET. Every heard of it? Few people had until recently. FEDNET is the dream of the General Services Administration. G-S-A wants to establish the largest non-military computer network in U. S. History. It would have a ~~potential~~ future potential for linking large amounts of personal information ~~xxx~~ into a massive computer bank. There had been little consideration of the protection of the privacy of that information in the planning for this giant network. That worried me.

As you may know, I am Chairman of the Domestic Council's Committee on the Right of Privacy, appointed by the President to make recommendations for action to protect personal privacy in just such cases as this.

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I am happy to say that---partly at my urging--the G-S-A has agreed to re-evaluate the FEDNET plans, and has promised that further action will depend on development of protection guidelines. I feel this represents a big plus for privacy. ~~But~~

But the problem of guidelines still has to be worked out.

And there, our Committee may be of some assistance. Just two weeks from today the Committee on Privacy will meet to discuss ways of protecting individual privacy, ~~Some of which could apply as FEDNET guidelines.~~ some of which could apply as FEDNET guidelines.

I hope the Committee will agree to chart several ways to tighten controls over the storing and use of personal information in the federal government.

It is not as easy as it sounds.

The questions the Committee will have to consider involve literally millions of Americans and billions of bits of personal information about those Americans.

Perhaps I can help you visualize the problem this way:

Try to picture in your mind all the information in the Social Security files.

Or the ~~W-E-W~~ H -E-W files on welfare cases, and on educational grants.

Or H-U-D 's files on urban renewal and housing programs.

Or the Commerce Department's reports from businessmen on just about every factor in their businesses.

Or the Agriculture Department's tremendous file of reports on farms and farmers.

That's just a beginning. But keeping those in mind---how would you proceed to determine what in those files is personal information about individuals?

How would you work out ways of determining what part of that information should be confidential?

How would you apply guidelines to make sure that confidential information stayed confidential?

That's the task our Committee faces. ~~At this point~~ We need a most careful study



-4-

and analysis of these questions before ~~fixing out delimiting xxxxxxxx~~ we can develop adequate protection policies

When our full committee meets in two weeks, ~~xxxx~~ I hope it will apply itself ~~xxxx~~ to ways of getting this information....and getting it quickly.

Another area of concern is the use--sometimes misuse--of names on mailing lists maintained by the federal agencies. I hope the Committee will discuss this problem and settle on some guidelines to prevent such lists from being misused, ~~xxx~~ both by the federal agencies themselves and by anyone to whom the agency might sell the list for other purposes.

More individual protection is needed for the consumer on information for business transactions. We have the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Perhaps we might look to expanding the principle of that act to voluntary codes covering transactions involving property and services and similar personal or family matters.

Two new areas--- involved ~~xxx~~ in the "wired society" concept we hear so much about are likely to trigger considerable discussion in the Committee meeting.

There is no question that technology ^{has brought us} ~~xxxxxxx~~ to the wired society capability. You certainly have heard of the experiments in using credit cards, coupled with bank accounts, to provide computerized ~~xxxxxxx~~ records from the cash register at the point of sale to the bank and back again. But if it's your credit card and your finances involved, you ought to be ^{assured} ~~xxxxxxx~~ that no one is tapping that computer to compile a very personal history of your spending habits. This question must be met and soon.

Cable-TV is now ~~xxxxx~~ so widespread we have to start thinking about ways to prevent electronic snooping, so that information about you as a Cable subscriber, or about the services you are getting does not get siphoned off for misuse.

The Committee, I hope will consider these matters in the very near future.



And looming in the background is the biggest and broadest question of them all: How do we apply whatever safeguards are developed?

As I see it, there are two approaches to use in providing protection for the individual.

We can set up a Super-Federal Agency--similar to, but more powerful than--the F-C-C. A super-agency that would police everything. It is an easy way. But it is a dangerous way.

I have great concern about that approach. Any agency set up to ~~provide~~ protect confidential information could also have access to that information.

So how do you police the policeman, to insure he isn't misusing his power? And make no mistake--supervising that great store of personal information could present great temptation for misuse if some unscrupulous person or group wanted to move that way.

I like the alternative. It's not as easy. But I believe the individual ~~shd~~ should be his own policeman. This approach is complicated, and difficult. But to my thinking it is far superior to the idea of a Big Brother Agency taking control.

Among other things, ~~the~~ individual way would need a lot of help from you ~~in~~ in the media. The citizen must know where information about him is stored, why it is needed, and ~~what~~ what information the files contain. Each citizen must have access to that information when HE wants access. A few exceptions are necessary--similar to some of those in the Freedom of Information Act. But in the vast number of cases, access should be given.

Right now, the average citizen has no means of knowing what information about him is on file---nor what such information is being used.

So we---you in the media, and those of us in the federal government---have a lot of work to do in getting people more involved in this privacy problem.



I have great confidence that the Committee on Privacy can lead the way.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

The Committee staff already has proposed some ~~which~~ needed legislation, ~~which~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~aimed at bringing the spotlight on the problem.~~

The draft ~~the~~ bill would provide for some fundamental safeguards:

- It would ~~prohibit~~ ^{forbid} the federal government from maintaining any secret record keeping system.
- It would set limits on the amount of information the federal government could collect.
- It would provide the means for any individual to ~~see~~ inspect his records, and to challenge the ~~the~~ accuracy and ~~even the very need for those records.~~
- It would prevent the federal government from using the information collected for purposes other than which it was collected without notice to the individual, or permission from him.
- It would require the Federal government to establish reasonable safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of such information.

This is not a partisan matter. And we hope that agreement can be reached on ^{legislative language} ~~in time to get action this year.~~ ^{congressional}

I think we are moving to meet the ~~the~~ threats raised by the ~~the~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

tremendous advances in electronic record keeping. But we have to move rapidly to

stay ahead. And I lay upon you the challenge to help ^{alert our} ~~help~~ citizens ^{to the} ~~XXXXXX~~

^{possible dangers they face} ~~to the proposed protective devices~~

~~to the~~ and to their responsibilities for keeping informed.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

You will be doing your country and your fellow countrymen a ~~major~~ major service.

Thank You.

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OP

with minor changes

Has Phil Buckner seen?

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But the problem of guidelines still has to be worked out.

And there, our Committee may be of some assistance. Just two weeks from today the Committee on Privacy will meet to discuss ways of protecting individual privacy. ~~Some of the information~~ some of which could apply ^{as} FEONET guidelines.

I hope the Committee will agree to chart several ways to tighten controls over the storing and use of personal information in the federal government.

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This is not a partisan matter. And we hope that agreement can be reached on ~~discharge~~ ^{confidential} in time to get action this year.

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You will be doing your country and your fellow countrymen a ~~_____~~

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Thank You.



DRAFT NO. 3

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
NATIONAL BROADCAST EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
MAYFLOWER HOTEL, WASHINGTON D. C.
10:00 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974



For Release ON Delivery

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But I believe that public officials--particularly those of us in the federal government--have a duty to inform the citizens of this country. We in public office have a duty to speak out as often as we can, so long as we don't interfere with our official duties.

I am proud of the fact that I have held more than 40 news conferences in the some 26 weeks I have been in office. In every city I visit--if there is time--I try to meet with reporters.

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Right now, the heavy flow of news on the Watergate matter is ~~even~~ obscuring a number of issues of great importance to all of us.

One of these is the problem of insuring personal privacy in a computerized society which threatens to open the most personal affairs of eachof us to anyone with access to computer-stored information.

I believe this is one of the most serious problems we face today. And one of the least-realized.

One part of the problem involves a huge new computer network ~~which~~ plan labeled FEDNET. Every heard of it? Few people had until recently. FEDNET is the dream of the General Services Administration. G-S-A wants to establish the largest non-military computer network in U. S. History. It would have a ~~potential~~ future potential for linking large amounts of personal information ~~xxx~~ into a massive computer bank. There had been little consideration of the protection of the privacy of that information in the planning for this giant network. That worried me.

As you may know, I am Chairman of the Domestic Council's Committee on the Right of Privacy, appointed by the President to make recommendations for action to protect personal privacy in just such cases as this.



I am happy to say that---partly at my urging--the G-S-A has agreed to re-evaluate the FEDNET plans, and has promised that further action will depend on development of protection guidelines. I feel this represents a big plus for privacy. ~~But~~

But the problem of guidelines still has to be worked out.

And there, our Committee may be of some assistance. Just two weeks from today the Committee on Privacy will meet to discuss ways of protecting individual privacy, ~~Some of the~~ some of which could apply as FEDNET guidelines.

I hope the Committee will agree to chart several ways to tighten controls over the storing and use of personal information in the federal government.

It is not as easy as it sounds.

The questions the Committee will have to consider involve literally millions of Americans and billions of bits of personal information about those Americans.

Perhaps I can help you visualize the problem this way:

Try to picture in your mind all the information in the Social Security files.

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How would you work out ways of determining what part of that information should be confidential?

How would you apply guidelines to make sure that confidential information stayed confidential?

That's the task our Committee faces. ~~At this~~ We need a most careful study



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When our full committee meets in two weeks, ~~xxxx~~ I hope it will apply itself ~~xxxx~~ to ways of getting this information....and getting it quickly.

Another area of concern is the use--sometimes misuse--of names on mailing lists maintained by the federal agencies. I hope the Committee will discuss this problem and settle on some guidelines to prevent such lists from being misused, ~~xxx~~ both by the federal agencies themselves and by anyone to whom the agency might sell the list for other purposes.

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The Committee staff already has proposed some ~~solid~~ needed legislation, ~~which would~~

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The draft ~~the~~ bill would provide for some fundamental safeguards:

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-2-

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REVISION FOR FIRST FOUR PARAGRAPHS OF PAGE SIX.

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REPLACE WITH INSERT

-6-



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**KEEPING SYSTEMS A MATTER
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This is not a partisan matter. And we hope that agreement can be reached on legislative language in time to get Congressional action this year.

(more)

I think we are moving to meet the threats raised by the tremendous advances in electronic record keeping. But we have to move rapidly to stay ahead. And I lay upon you the challenge to help alert our citizens to the possible dangers they face; to the proposed protective devices; and to their responsibility for keeping informed.

You will be doing your country and your fellow countrymen a major service.

Thank you.

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