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**2 Proposed for U.S.**

## Computer Banks On Individuals Hit

Proposals for two federal computerized data banks that would contain millions of names were criticized yesterday in Congress and within the administration as being dangerous and unnecessary.

One, an FBI proposal to establish a computerized criminal history information system linking police departments around the country, was described by a White House aide as carrying the potential for violating "the spirit if not the letter of federal privacy legislation."

The other was a Department of Agriculture plan to purchase a \$398 million computer system to centralize department records that the General Accounting Office said include "personal information on its employees as well as on farmers' incomes and financial positions."

Rep. John E. Moss, (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Government Information subcommittee, made public the criticisms of both systems. Moss, who had asked the GAO to examine the Agriculture Department proposal, forwarded the GAO recommendation that it be killed to the chairman of the House and Senate agriculture appropriations subcommittees. GAO is a congressional watchdog agency.

Moss also said he would oppose the FBI plan.

Among the documents made public was a letter dated May 12 from John Eger, acting director of the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy, to Deputy Attorney General Harold R. Tyler Jr.

Eger wrote that the FBI proposal "could result in the absorption of state and local criminal data systems into a potentially abusive, centralized, federally controlled communications and computer information system."

"One basic concern," he added, "is the threat posed by a system which could be used by a federal law enforcement agency to monitor in detail the day-to-day operations of state and local law enforcement authorities."

Eger noted that only four states so far have been willing to include their criminal history information in such a sys-

tem, and he questioned whether there was any need for it.

Another report critical of the FBI proposal came from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the federal agency which has disbursed billion of dollars in crime-fighting grants to state and local governments.

The LEAA study supported the principle of computerizing criminal history records but questioned whether the information should be centralized under federal control.

Maintaining such files in independent state systems would "be most effective in satisfying law enforcement needs without unduly endangering individual rights," the LEAA study said.

In a memorandum, the FBI contended the LEAA had once supported its proposal for a computerized criminal history system and should continue to do so.

The GAO report on the Agriculture Department proposal said USDA officials began acquiring the new computer system before they had determined their needs.

The GAO noted that Congress became concerned because it had not been fully informed of plans for the project and because the USDA data bank "could pose a serious threat to the privacy of individuals, particularly since such a network might be expanded to link all government computers."