

Everything You Don't Want Known About You—But Is

INQUIRER
BOOK OF THE WEEK:
NONFICTION

THE ASSAULT OF PRIVACY

Computers, Data
Banks and Dossiers

Michigan U. Press.
333 pages. \$7.95

New warnings are given al-
built on qualities one senses
most daily by newspapers, ra-
dio, television or Sen. Sam
Ervin: privacy is becoming a
scarce commodity in this coun-
try.

Activists accustomed
to strange whirs and clicks on

But now the average citizen
their telephones have known

But now the average citizen
is learning that every time he
takes a psychological test for a
company, that each time he ap-
plies for credit that every time
he uses his credit card — he

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*Henry Cabot Lodge, then ambassador,
exhibits innocent-looking United Na-
tions seal, exposing hidden microphone.*

takes a psychological test for a
company, that each time he ap-
plies for credit that every time
he uses his credit card—he
leaves an "information path"
for anyone who may have reason
to delve into his private af-
fairs.

University of Michigan law
professor Arthur R. Miller
shows in detail how much gov-
ernment and industry know, not
only about activists and the
"potentially dangerous," but
about you, the average citizen.
The knowledge comes from
electronic surveillance such as
wiretapping; bugging and high-
ly advanced listening devices;
plain spying by governmental
agencies; and computerized
data banks that store every-
thing from a person's credit
rating to his latest IQ score.

"The trend," Miller says, "is
toward fully computerized
credit bureau networks capa-
ble of maintaining an electronic
file on every economically vi-
able American.

"... A simple notation label-
ing a customer 'slow pay' can
do great damage, yet it may
conceal an honest dispute in
which the customer withheld
payment because he believed

that the goods or services he
bargained for were not
tendered in an acceptable con-
dition...

"... Some credit bureaus
open their files to law-
enforcement agencies and
enforcement agencies and or
other governmental officials
without charge or protest, pos-

sibly in hope of currying favor
or obtaining reciprocal treat-
ment. The FBI alone obtains
approximately 25,000 credit re-
ports every year."

"The Assault on Privacy" is
a terribly important book that
must read, for it is a fright-
ening document about where
we are headed as our technol-
ogy grows and spreads. May-
be if we know, we can do
something to stop or slow it.

Sandy Padwe
Of The Inquirer Staff