

SENATE STUDY FINDS 858 U. S. DATA BANKS

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, June 17

(UPI) — Senate investigators disclosed today they had disbranch agencies kept 858 Federal data banks, containing more than 1.25 billion records on Americans.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, who is chairman of the constitutional rights subcommittee, released a four-year study on Federal data banks in preparation for hearings starting tomorrow on bills to protect citizens' privacy.

Senator Ervin said that the study showed the need for legislation "to keep Americans from being numbered, punched, processed and filed away." He said that "finding out about these systems has been a difficult, time-consuming and frustrating experience" because of lack of cooperation by some agencies.

The study found that some agencies kept data on race, income and drug addiction, that only 10 per cent of the data banks were authorized by law, more than 40 per cent of them did not tell people that records were kept on them, about half did not allow persons to review and correct their files and about 29 banks were concerned primarily with derogatory information.

... Group in Hlston