

SURV

Rehnquist's Plea on Privacy

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Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist has urged advocates of the right of privacy to fight expanded government regulation of citizens' lives rather than to seek preservation of secrecy that may hamper criminal law enforcement.

In two lectures delivered at the University of Kansas Law School last week, the Supreme Court justice questioned efforts to limit the circulation of criminal records as an invasion of personal privacy.

Rehnquist suggested that the Secret Service would be justified in photographic surveillance of audiences at political rallies in an effort to detect a potential assassin, even though some sacrifice of privacy for others in the crowd would be involved.

The justice is a conservative member of the bench.

Rehnquist told his audience that "the increasing amount of government regulation" and the larger number of "government-benefit programs" have resulted in "less privacy enjoyed by the individuals who live under that government.

"What I have in mind," Rehnquist said, "is that the fight for retention or expansion of privacy may be waged in the legislative halls not in terms of measures which would increase privacy but detract from effective law enforcement, but head-on against the expansion of substantive government regulation of our lives."

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