

A Big Day for Privacy Bills

Washington Both the House and Senate voted yesterday to restrict the kind of information the government gathers on citizens and how it is used.

The two houses, in a rare coincidence, passed similar bills on the same subject at practically the same hour. Differences in the two versions could be ironed out by amendments or in a conference committee.

The House measure, approved on a 353 to 1 vote, would give citizens access to all government records affecting them individually unless such access endangers national security or law enforcement investigations.

Senator Barry Goldwater rep- Ariz.), and his son, Representative Barry Goldwater Jr. (Rep-Calif.), won approval in their respective houses of identical amendments affecting use of Social Security numbers.

The Goldwater provisions say that citizens cannot be denied lawful federal benefits if they refuse to give their Social Security number. They would have to continue to give the number if it was required in federal programs before January, 1975.

In the House bill, gathering of information on religious or political affiliations would be banned and swapping of information between federal agencies could only be done with a citizen's permission, with a few exceptions.

Agencies such as the FBI, CIA and Secret Service would be exempt from the access provisions, and files that are open to inspection could withhold the name of informers.

The Senate bill, approved 74 to 9, also orders strict safeguards and, in addition, would create a private protection commission to investigate violations and develop model guidelines.

United Press

Labor View

New York

W.J. Usery Jr., director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, predicted yesterday that "good sense" on both sides will produce peaceful settlements in most crucial labor negotiations in 1975.

Associated Press