

Ervin's Speech on Threat to Privacy

Oxford, Ohio

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.) last night proposed a halt in all computerized data collection of information about private lives of individuals until the consequences can be fully taken into account.

Ervin, chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, said the demand for such information will continue to increase "until our control over information about ourselves is forever consigned to computers."

Ervin said his concern over "ever-expanding computerized information systems" was their potential threat to individual privacy.

"It seems to me to be high time for those of us who care deeply about individual liberties to call a halt to this burgeoning information collection and dissemination unless and until the consequences . . . on individual lives and liberties are taken fully into account," Ervin said.

Ervin made the proposal in a speech to a Miami University symposium on "computers and privacy."

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