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**U.S. SETS LIMITS
ON CRIMINAL DATA**

**Availability of Such Records
Reduced by New Code**

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 —

The Department of Justice issued today a proposed set of new regulations to limit the availability of criminal records to law enforcement agencies.

Generally, the regulations are aimed at preventing Government agencies or private groups from obtaining individuals' criminal records from police data banks and using them for employment or credit investigations rather than for any criminal justice function.

The new code, when it takes effect in two or three months will nominally cover the Federal Bureau of Investigation and state and local criminal justice agencies that receive Federal funds directly or indirectly from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

While it will almost certainly force a change in crime information practices in many states and localities, the code does not appear to require the F.B.I. to adopt any measures that are not current practice.

Stop-Gap Protection

The regulations are designed to provide stop-gap protection for the privacy of individuals' criminal records, pending the adoption by Congress of somewhat stronger safeguards incorporated in legislation that the Justice Department made public 10 days ago.

The Nixon Administration measure would not go into effect until a year after its enactment, so the regulations may have to cover a long gap.

Justice Department hearings on the regulations were announced for March 1 and 4, with a deadline of March 29 for submission of written statements. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mary Lawton said that she expected the regulations to be put into effect in April or May.

Under the regulations, states and localities receiving Federal assistance for law enforcement would have to seal the arrest record of any individual not subsequently found guilty or anyone whose case was not disposed of within five years after arrest.

Sealed records, the code specifies, are available only to criminal justice agencies for criminal justice purposes, to persons compiling statistics or to the individual involved.

Rules for F.B.I.

The regulations affecting the F.B.I. restrict the circulation of any of its crime records to criminal justice agencies that

will use them for criminal justice purposes and to Federal agencies that are authorized by statute or executive order to receive it.

"Dissemination of such data for use in connection with licensing or state or local employment or for other uses is prohibited unless such dissemination is pursuant to state or Federal statutes," the rules specify.

There is no other provision for any sealing of F.B.I. records.

Richard Velde, deputy administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration said that most large states and cities would come under the

regulations because their law enforcement systems received assistance from the agency.

Under the regulations, states will be required to limit access to their crime records to "criminal justice agencies for criminal justice purposes" and to individuals and agencies expressly authorized by state law to receive such information.

British Roads Most Clogged

LONDON (UPI)—Britain has the world's most crowded roads, a B.B.C. program reported. It said Britain had about 80 vehicles per mile of road. Italy and West Germany have 70, the United States and France 40 and Japan 30.