

ERVIN

Ervin Opens Hearings on Data Banks

Washington

Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem.-N.C.) said yesterday that strict legislation is needed to safeguard the rights of individuals whose arrest records are now stored in federal crime computers with virtually no controls.

Ervin, who has introduced a bill on data bank safeguards, made his comments as his subcommittee on constitutional rights opened a week of hearings on the subject. The administration has also offered a safeguards measure.

The Ervin measure was supported in testimony from Massachusetts Governor Francis Sargent and Senator Charles M.C. Mathias (Rep.-Md.).

Sargent, whose state has refused to join the FBI's National Crime Information Center until proper federal safeguards are enacted, testified that because the FBI uses its information for non-law enforcement purposes in conflict with the Massachusetts system the state chose not to participate for fear of losing its controls on the criminal history data.

Mathias said the FBI's information center now has more than five million files, of which 500,000 are criminal history records.

United Press.
