

Report on Federal Data Banks

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Washington

Senate investigators disclosed yesterday they have discovered 858 federal government data banks, containing more than a billion records on individuals.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem.-N.C.) said, "I suspect there are many more we haven't found."

Ervin, chairman of the Senate Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, released a four-year study on federal data banks in preparation for hearings on bills which would provide citizens with protection of their privacy.

Films' Support Bill Loses

Sacramento

A bill of spend \$100,000 in state taxpayer funds to help the movie industry promote motion pictures and secure filming locations in California was rejected by the Senate Finance Committee yesterday.

The measure by Senator Alan Robbins (Dem.-Van Nuys) was defeated on a 6-5 vote, one short of approval.

It would create a state "motion picture development commission" to promote movie production in California, help find locations and "facilitate cooperation from local governmental agencies."

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The hearings open today.

Ervin said the study showed the need for legisla-

tion. "To keep Americans from being numbered, punched, processed and filed away."

The subcommittee said that 54 executive branch agencies surveyed reported a total of 858 data banks containing personal information about individuals.

These data banks, the report added, contain more than 1.25 billion records on individuals.

Ervin said some government agencies cooperated well with the investigation but added the subcommittee had "great difficulty" with others.

"Finding out about these systems has been a difficult, time-consuming, and frus-

trating experience," Ervin added.

"The aversion of the executive branch to informing Congress and the people about what they are doing is not restricted to matters of high policy, national security or foreign policy."

"An attitude approaching disdain affects even requests for basic non-sensitive data such as this survey sought."

The subcommittee noted that some agencies, like the interior Department, failed to respond, others omitted data banks, or, like the Gen-

eral Services Administration, failed to report new data bank plans.

Among the other findings are that some agencies have information on race, drug-addiction, and salary; about 29 are concerned primarily with derogatory information; ten per cent are authorized by law; more than 40 per cent do not tell people records are kept on them; about half do not allow persons to review and correct their files, and more than a third prohibit access by individuals.

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