## GSA Denies 'Secrecy' Of Data Bank

By Richard E. Rotman Washington Post Staff Writer

医非非法氏征治疗炎病等医毒素 经政务法律 医克尔氏氏试验检 General Services Adminis-tration Chief Arthur Sampson yesterday denied a Senate subcommittee staff's charge that the GSA failed to inform Congress of plans to establish a "massive national databank."

Testifying before the Special Subcommittee on Privacy, Information Systems and Constitutional Rights, Sampson said, "If it was a secret, it was the worst kept secret in government."

Called FEDNET, or the New Equipment Project, the computer system was to have connected Department of Agriculture and GSA computers. However, protests by Vice President Ford, Office of Management and Budget Director Roy L. Ash and members of Congress curtailed the project. the subcommittee has said.

tive costs, many officials still are not satisfied. As Clay T. Whitehead, director of the White House Office To T. White House Office of Telecommunications Policy, observed at the hearings yesterday that the "character" of planned large data system is the project has not been "substantially" changed. "The capacity of the system is still greater than we have seen before," Whitehead said.

communications network. When added at some future date, the original system will have been built, only stages."



ARTHUR F. SAMPSON . . . defends GSA

only 1 per cent of government computers). Once joined, any operator at one of the pro-Although Sampson maintained that FEDNET's only will be able to summon inforpurpose was to cut administration instantly

> Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (Demaine) did not dispute Sampson's testimony yesterday, but he did win an admission that congressional oversight of any planned large data system is

Moreover, a Constitutional Conference, a health data exto sabotage a privacy bill in the Ohio legislature.

Representatives in stores, oil companies and the electronics industry have mon-Although the GSA contended that FEDNET will only count "potatoes or paper-clips," committee staff members, committee staff members, and companies depend heavily on their ability to gather information of the contended to the con clips," committee staff members said its inevitable expansion is at issue. Large-capacity "third-generation" computers supported the effort to estabmay be paired almost infi-nitely (FEDNET represents operation of data banks.