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The Right to Privacy

To the Editor:

Your June 24 editorial "Protecting Privacy" couldn't be more timely. Legislative hearings are being conducted by both the Senate and the House on the Comprehensive Right to Privacy Act, introduced by Congressman Barry Goldwater Jr. and myself in the House and most recently by Senators Ervin, Percy, Muskie, Bayh, Goldwater, Kennedy and Mathias in a comparable bill in the Senate.

Our legislation contains the following ten commandments:

- Permit any person to inspect his own file and have copies made at reasonable cost to him.
- Permit any person to supplement the information contained in his file.
- Permit the removal of erroneous or irrelevant information and provide that agencies and persons to whom the erroneous or irrelevant material has been previously transferred be notified of its removal.
- Prohibit the disclosure of information in the file to individuals in the agency other than those who need to examine the file in connection with the performance of their duties.
- Require the maintenance of a record of all persons inspecting such files, and their identity and their pur-

pose.

- Insure that information be maintained completely and competently with adequate security safeguards.
 - Require that, when information is collected, the individual must be told if the request is mandatory or voluntary and what penalty or loss of benefit will result for noncompliance.
 - Require that persons involved in handling personal information act under a code of fair information practices, know the security procedures and be subject to penalties for any breaches.
 - Permit anyone wishing to stop receiving mail because his name is on a mailing list to do so.
 - Prohibit agencies or organizations from requiring individuals to give their Social Security number for any purpose not related to their Social Security account or not mandated by Federal statute and prohibit the development of any other universal numerical identifier.
- Those interested in supporting the legislation, H.R. 14493 and S. 3418, should write to Senator Sam Ervin, chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee, and to Representative William Moorhead, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information.
- EDWARD I. KOCH
U.S. Rep., 18th District, New York
Washington, June 24, 1974