Privacy: Policy and the Law

Problems of privacy in modern life have become of increasing concern, with the steady increase in the variety and detail of information gathered on each individual by both government and private agencies coinciding with marked technological advances in electronic surveillance instruments and in computers.

On February 23 and 24, the University of Chicago Law School sponsored a Conference on Privacy: Policy and the Law. The Conference was supported by a grant from Sentry Insurance.

The opening session, chaired by Professor Harry Kalven, Jr., of the Law School, heard three papers. Edward A. Shils, Professor of Sociology and in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, spoke on "The Zone of Privacy." Next, "The Constitutional Right to be Private" was the topic of Louis Henken, Hamilton Fish Professor of International Law and Diplomacy at Columbia University. Marc A. Franklin, Professor of Law at Stanford University, closed the session with "A Legal Map of Privacy."

Stanley A. Kaplan, Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School, presided over the second session, which heard Arthur R. Miller, Professor of Law, University of Michigan, and Alan F. Westin, Professor of Public Law and Government, Columbia University and author of Privacy and Freedom. Professor Miller’s topic was "Computer Technology—Potential Threat to Personal Privacy." Professor Westin spoke on "Privacy and Social Control: The Dilemma of a Data-Based Civilization."

The third session, chaired by Professor Gerhard Casper, was devoted to the examination of four specific areas in which personal privacy is, or may be, threatened. The speakers and topics were: "Privacy and the Welfare State," by Robert J. Levy, Professor of Law, University of Minnesota; "Privacy and the Public Purse," by the Honorable Mitchell Rogovin, Assistant Attorney General of the United States for the Tax Division; "Privacy and Government Employment," by Bennett Boskey, of Volpe, Boskey and Lyons, Washington, former Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission; and "Privacy and the Census," by Philip M. Hauser, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Population Research and Training Center, The University of Chicago, and former Acting Director, U.S. Census Bureau.

At dinner on the evening of the second day, those attending heard Pierre Salinger, former press secretary to President Kennedy and President Johnson, discuss "Privacy and the White House."

The concluding event on the Conference Program was a panel discussion of "A Policy for Privacy." Participants were Walter J. Blum, Professor of Law, The University of Chicago Law School, Chairman; Bruno Bettelheim, Stella M. Rowley Professor of Education, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry, and Director of the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, The University of Chicago, and Professors Casper, Henkin, Kalven and Shils.
A portion of the nearly four hundred people in attendance at the dinner session.

Interested members of the audience continue the discussion with Professor Hauser after the session at which he spoke had adjourned.

Kenneth Culp Davis, John P. Wilson Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School, with Professor Levy.

The Panel, left to right, Professors Kalven, Casper, Blum, Bettelheim, Shils and Henkin.

The Conference concluded with a panel discussion on "A Policy for Privacy," in the Law School Auditorium.
Pierre Salinger spoke on "Privacy and the White House."

Mr. Salinger at the speaker's table with Mrs. Phil C. Neal and Charles U. Daly, Vice President for Development and Public Affairs, The University of Chicago.

Robert Levy and Bennett Boskey enjoy the remarks of a fellow speaker.

Professor Philip Hauser addressing the Conference on Privacy.

Participants in the opening session of the Privacy Conference were, left to right, Professor Louis Henkin, Professor Marc A. Franklin, Professor Edward Shils, and Professor Harry Kalven, Jr., who presided.

Professor Marc A. Franklin, with law students at one of the Conference receptions.

Mrs. Arthur Miller and Professor Miller during a Conference interlude.