

Congress limits use of confidential info

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Both House and Senate voted Thursday to restrict the kind of information the government gathers on citizens and how it is used.

The two houses, in a rare coincidence, passed similar bills on the same subject at practically the same hour. Differences in the two versions could be compromised by amendments or in a conference committee.

The House measure, approved on a 353-1 vote, would give citizens access to all government records affecting them individually unless such access endangers national security or law enforcement investigations.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, (R-Ariz.), and his son, Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., (R-Calif.), won approval in their respective Houses of identical amendments affecting use of Social Security numbers.

The Goldwater provisions say that citizens cannot be denied lawful federal benefits if they refuse to give their Social Security number. They would have to

continue to give the number if it was required in federal programs before January, 1975.

In the House bill, gathering of information on religious or political affiliations would be banned and swapping of information between federal agencies could only be done with

Nixon realized he could be impeached

WASHINGTON (UPI)—President Richard Nixon agreed he could be impeached if the failing Watergate cover-up were not handled "adroitly," according to a tape played Thursday at the Watergate conspiracy trial.

Prosecutors played the last four of 28 presidential tapes presented at the trial of five former Nixon aides. None of the four had been made public before.

"I think it's entirely conceivable that if former presidential counsel

a citizen's permission, with a few exceptions.

Agencies such as the FBI, CIA and the Secret Service would be exempt from the access provisions and files that are open to inspection could withhold the name of informers.

The Senate bill, approved 74 to 9, also orders strict safeguards and, in addition, would create a Private Protection Commission to investigate violations and develop model guidelines.

John Dean is totally out of control and if matters are not handled adroitly that you could get a resolution of impeachment," defendant John Ehrlichman remarked on April 25.

"That's right," Nixon replied. Judge John Sirica also accepted as evidence a 1972 memo by E. Howard Hunt Jr. demanding the administration meet its commitments of money, pardons and "rehabilitation" for the original Watergate defendants.

upi roundup

Postal rates to increase...again

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—First class postage rates will jump from 10 cents per ounce to at least 12 cents within a year, Asst. U.S. Postmaster General James Byrne predicted Thursday. Byrne said the increase would be necessary because of a postal service deficit this year of \$438 million. "If the price of gasoline goes up one cent," he said, "it costs the postal service \$3.5 million."

Anti-abortion language dropped

WASHINGTON—House and Senate conferees agreed Thursday to drop anti-abortion language from a Health, Education and Welfare money bill. Conferees finally agreed, after months of negotiation, on a compromise \$33 million appropriations measure for the departments of Labor and HEW. The key issue that held up agreement was a Senate provision by Sen. Dewey Bartlett, (R-Okla.), that said no money in the measure could be used directly or indirectly for abortion purposes. Conferees agreed to drop the provision in favor of a statement that will accompany the bill saying that while a majority of the conferees are in favor of limitations on abortion they should not be included in an appropriations bill but should come out of authorizing committees.

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