

# THE PAPER TRIP II



For a  
NEW YOU  
*through*  
NEW ID

EDEN PRESS

# THE PAPER TRIP I

## **THE PAPER TRIP I**

is the new title of the original book,  
**THE PAPER TRIP**

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## **THE PAPER TRIP I**

represents the complete  
revision, enlargement and renaming of  
**THE PAPER TRIP**

REVISED 1984

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Cathy Clark

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# FOREWORD



Just who needs to take the paper trip? Anyone who now finds it difficult or undesirable to continue living under his old name — or anyone who wants to build an “escape route,” just in case. By obtaining a new identity old problems vanish; a clean, fresh beginning awaits. We all have our problems of varying degrees, of course; but some of us find ourselves in situations so overwhelming that an alternate identity is the only reasonable solution.

If an individual wants freedom, it is his responsibility to elude control. Escaping the System, however, requires techniques and methods not ordinarily available in college courses or public libraries. Such information is not abundant or widely-publicized in a controlled society. It takes a creative mind to slip unnoticed and untouched through the mazes of bureaucratic decree. What the governing mind never seems to realize is that the tighter the net of laws, the more holes it will have. . . .

*THE PAPER TRIP I* provides the key ingredient for escaping social control: change of identity. While the purposes for changing one's identity may be as numerous as there are individuals, the basic methods are relatively few. The degree of “completeness” in a person's new identity will depend upon his own needs. *THE PAPER TRIP I* details all the levels of alternate identity and the methods for obtaining it. Paper Trippers can make servants of the bureaucrats and become the rightful masters of their own lives. If freedom is to exist, we must all be free to be who we want to be. *THE PAPER TRIP I* leads the way.





*This I believe: that the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual. This is what I am and what I am about. I can understand why a system built on a pattern must try to destroy the free mind, for this is the one thing which can by inspection destroy such a system. Surely, I can understand this, and I hate it and I will fight against it to preserve the one thing that separates us from the uncreative beasts. —John Steinbeck*

# I. OVER THE WALL...

## WHY TAKE A "PAPER TRIP"?

*THE PAPER TRIP* is more than a phrase or a book. It is an idea: The idea that bureaucratic America and personal freedom do not and cannot coexist. The increasing size of government, social and economic organizations, and their efficient uses of computerized information have reduced almost to nothing the traditionally free and personal areas of individual activity. We are all "plugged in" to the System, subjected to surveillance of all degrees and computer cross-referenced according to that surveillance. Why is this done?

We are told the only purpose of data-gathering is to obtain predictability; and predictability is the essential element of *control*. When social control becomes total, we can be sure personal freedom will no longer exist. *THE PAPER TRIP* recognizes the inexorable diminution of our personal freedoms, but rejects the necessity of submission to this type of social control.

*No man is free who is not master of himself.*  
—Epictetus

And if a person is to be the master of his own fate, he must be able to recognize and sidestep society's traps. Therefore, here are some examples of the current trend of increasing social control over the individual. . . .

## THE PAPER PRISON

In a recent survey, 72% of the citizens questioned said they disapproved of the idea of a national, government-operated data bank that would record the "basic facts" of a person's life from birth onward. This includes such "facts" as a person's birthdate, school grades, work history and other detailed personal information.

However, 28% said they favored the idea, according to the American Council of Life Insurance. Even this small percentage is frightening when one realizes that almost all of George Orwell's 1984 technology exists . . . now! As a matter of policy — and public pacification — it has not been allowed to "coalesce" under one agency or department in the United

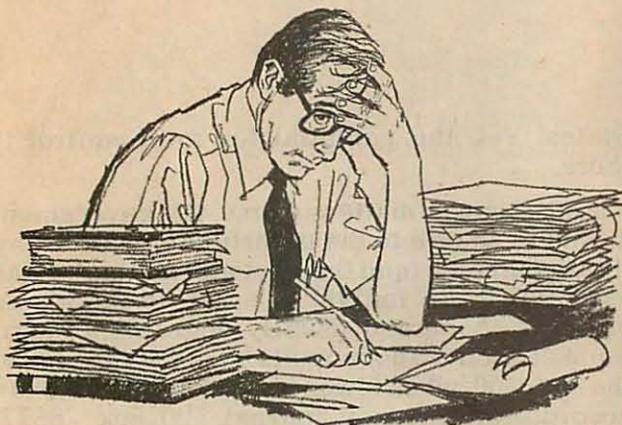
States. Yet, the potential for total control is there. . . .

And, to make matters worse, the government seems to adhere to the unfortunate philosophy that documents (and their categorization) are as essential to an individual's life as the air he breathes. A person usually acquires a maximum of about 23 documents from the age of 30 to the age of 60 (when fewer documents are needed), according to Privacy Journal (PO Box 28577, Providence, Rhode Island 28577). The newsletter reports that a survey by sociologist James B. Rule and his associates at the State University of New York at Stony Brook investigates the number of "identifiers" the average person is forced to accumulate:

*They found that just about everybody has a Social Security card, although nine persons (out of 291) questioned did not. More than two-thirds have a driver's license, birth certificate, marriage license and credit cards. Two-thirds have a baptismal certificate and half have membership cards for associations. Forty percent keep a voter registration card; a fourth use a check-cashing card, union papers or military discharge papers. One out of five in the survey possesses a passport; and one out of six has a will, a diploma, divorce papers or occupational skills certificate. One out of ten has a hunting or fishing license; fewer have work ID cards, security clearances, immigration documents, school IDs, adoption papers, probation papers, non-occupational skills certificates, firearms permits, pilot's or captain's licenses, or civil defense papers. (The survey excluded documents belonging more to the household than the individual — like real estate and motor vehicle papers.)*

The majority (eighty percent) of those surveyed believe that the government and other data-gatherers were now keeping more records on people than in the past. The majority also believe that computerization is a negative contributing factor in the abuse of personal privacy. The survey also discovered that "the Washington shuffle" is stepping on the toes of those who are seeking financial freedom and privacy: the more affluent the individual be-

comes, the more documents and bureaucratic intrusions he must endure. And, it will become more and more difficult to sidestep federal nosiness about financial transactions as we move closer to being a true credit-card society....



## BIG BROTHER: A PAPER "PUSHER"

Many citizens are "paperwork addicts." So used to the massive doses of federal forms and red tape doled out by bureaucrats, they get the shakes and become insecure without the proper paper regimen. Some of these people promote the use of the ultimate control trip — the "foolproof" national identification card.

And, one of the major arguments these paper "pushers" cite to justify this drastic measure is the problem of illegal aliens. More often than not, this problem means — specifically — the problem of undocumented aliens from Mexico. The folks hooked on paper proof of identity often refer to the increase in the number of successful *coyotes* (highly-organized smugglers of illegal immigrants).

According to Leonel J. Castillo, commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), extensive smuggling networks operate "almost like travel agencies." For example, they can establish an office in New York and "find you 50 workers — *complete with phony documents* — to work in carwashes in Philadelphia. They'll get them in from Brownsville, Texas, for example, with stops in different places," Castillo says in a copyrighted interview in *U.S. News & World Report*. Also, there are successful "Ma and Pa"-type operations in the Southeast — with short runs such as from Tijuana to Los Angeles, he adds. This border-area "transportation" usually costs \$200 or \$300. If the alien travels up to the Northeast, the price is usually a minimum of \$1,000.

Although the INS does not see the need for a national ID card for everyone, the agency is

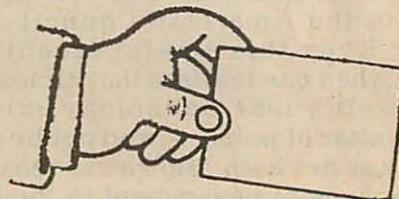
issuing an improved ID card which is required for resident aliens. The card provides verification of identity through the use of a photograph, thumbprint, signature and a code revealing the holder's "history." According to Castillo, "The alien can be asked questions, and our officers can tell immediately by looking at the code whether the person is the one described on the card... We're also asking the issuance of Social Security cards be tightened up, and urging States to make it harder for people to assume false identities by controlling copies of birth certificates of persons who have died."

However, there are concerned citizens who oppose this procedure and the philosophy which fosters it. California's Governor Brown says: "That concerns me. That identity card business. I personally don't like all these identifications. I don't even like to put my fingerprints on my driver's license. I like a little freedom."

In the final televised debate (KNBC — "News Conference") with Evelle Younger in the race for governor, Brown commented: "During the history of our Republic (Brown ignoring the periods of slavery and internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II), we've never had to pin identity cards on people in order for them to walk around in our society... I don't like all that credit reporting and everything they know about you. *I think we need a little bit of individualism and a little bit of privacy and keep government out.*" And, although Governor Brown did not suggest that an individual had a right to carry a false Social Security card, he did maintain that a person had "a *constitutional right* to anonymity and privacy and (to) keep people out of your life."

## CASH CONTROL

As paper-pushing increases ominously on all levels of society, the government slips closer to the exclusive use of "electronic money." Such a system (currently known as EFTS — Electronic Funds Transfer System) ultimately would insitute the use of a "super" credit card instead of actual cash. An employer would type an individual's "paycheck" into a computer terminal. The computer would automatically deposit money in the individual's bank account; and the individual would conduct all his finan-



cial transactions electronically, according to *The McKeever Strategy Letter* (P.O. Box 4130, Medford, OR 97501, \$195 per year). At the end of the month, he would receive a bank statement — a complete review of his lifestyle in the form of a detailed printout of all financial activities.

This system implies the ability for total control and for locking a person into a permanent computer personality. And, the frightening fact is that the technology is available now and is already in use. In order to lower costs and ease the paperwork burden, forms of electronic banking and purchasing are used by the Air Force, Social Security, supermarkets and department stores. In fact, a totally cashless society — in which all transactions from buying groceries to paying the telephone bill are handled electronically — is possible within a decade, according to Federal Reserve Bank officer Thomas G. Waage.



Another 1984-aspect of this system is the necessity for a *single identifying number for each individual*, according to Jim McKeever. The concept also implies the use of a single “world credit card,” he says . . . “Even though I now do not like the idea of such a system, nor want it imposed upon us, I still believe it is *inevitable*. There are too many forces pushing us in that direction. The ‘Big Brother’ implications are horrifying. The government could keep track of all of our expenditures. They could put us on a budget, allowing us use of only a portion of our funds each week. The IRS could tag your account, preventing you from making any purchases. If a dictator were ever to arise, he would have the technology that would enable him to totally control the population.”

This computer control leads to the compromise of basic freedom and human rights. The “average American” is beginning to ques-

tion the government’s growing compulsion to identify and keep track of each and every citizen. A letter to the editor of *Eden Underground News Service* illustrates this concern:

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Dear Sir:

Regarding the recent “Rockford Files” episode, “Sixty Minutes” report and other popular press revelations of your methods of escaping your past, I put the question to you . . . How can a “non-criminal,” decent American citizen escape the oncoming crush of Big Brother, computer dossiers, data banks, etc.?

With the upcoming government demands for color photos, uniform people numbers, multiple ID’s, cross-indexing of birth and death records, and perhaps even internal passports (such as magnetically-coded Social Security numbers tattooed on our arms during booster shots for an outbreak of flu), we can expect to lose our fundamental freedoms in lieu of government blackmail.

I have no interest in passing bad checks, fleeing from justice, or committing espionage or any other offense. I only want my privacy — the most precious commodity there is.

The corrosive effect of this on trust is already evident. *Because check kitters, mobsters, terrorists, draft dodgers, and CIA and KGB spies use “Paper Trip” methods — and give them a bad name, they will be banned for everyone, including honest citizens.*

To ensure that criminals can no longer use the mails, we can expect the collapse of the mails, too, and their replacement by “mailgrams” — a very public means of person to person communication.

If you can advise me of safer and more private forms of ID, I would be forever in your debt. . . . Please reply by a Scotch-tape sealed letter via a remail service or two. Thank you. Good Luck.

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Public outcry has finally penetrated the hallowed halls of Washington. Consciousness of the situation prompted Congressman David Obie of Wisconsin to comment: “Privacy covers a lot. Sometimes it means our right under the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures. Sometimes, in the words of the television character — the Prisoner — it means, “I will not be pushed, filed, stamped, indexed, briefed, debriefed, or numbered.” And at other times, it means quite simply the chance to enjoy solitude.

However, the constant identification process carried on by the government and private businesses is making it difficult for many individuals to find the solitude of a simplified lifestyle. Here are some illustrations. . . .

## RUNAWAY FATHERS

It's difficult to escape a burdensome lifestyle with a long-established identity which has been etched on an almost indelible portrait on federal file paper and computer tape. The case of runaway fathers is a good example: Although we do not recommend the shirking of legal financial responsibilities, this situation dramatically demonstrates the need for the alternate-identity thesis.

With the aid of Social Security files, income tax returns and other governmental records, the relatively new Office of Child Support Enforcement (OSCE) tracks down fathers who skip out on child-support payments. Created by an act of Congress in 1975, the agency is proving effective. "We are probably collecting at least twice as much today (in child-support money) as the amount collected before the establishment of this office," according to Louis B. Hays, deputy director of OCSE. Moreover, the agency is eager to be of assistance. It recommends that any woman who needs help in collecting child support money should go to her local welfare office (whether she is receiving welfare or not). The welfare authorities will either start the father-finding process or direct the woman to the state agency that handles such cases — usually the probation department, family court or the district attorney.

If the state's efforts to locate "dear old Dad" fail, the case goes to the competent OCSE. The agency has greatly increased collections: In the twelve months ending June 30, 1976, child support collections made in welfare cases totaled about \$280 million. In the same period in 1977, collections are estimated at \$400 million at least, says Hayes. OCSE succeeds in nearly three out of four cases. Of the 275,000 requests received to date, "we have been able to find an address for over 70%" of the absent fathers, according to Maria Candamil, a public inquiry specialist for OCSE. . . . And these addresses (now in a computer data bank) belong to persons who are trying to *hide*!!

## MISSING PERSONS

Paper Trippers who are planning to "get lost" should be aware of the possible pursuit by the FBI's technological bloodhound: the National Crime Information Center's computer system.

Although the original objective was to maintain only the names of criminal suspects, the NCIC currently records and stores the names of more than 21,000 "missing persons." This additional file classification was added in 1975 as a result of the discovery of the murders of several young runaways in Houston, TX.

With increasing public reaction to this continuing kind of violence, the trend in tracking missing persons may spread, especially in metropolitan areas. For example, in response to the mass murders discovered recently in the house of John W. Gacy, Jr. in Des Plaines, IL, the Chicago Police Department wants to establish a computer system to record the personal characteristics of the 21,000 persons reported missing annually. The "files" — programmed, hopefully, to identify and screen out common characteristics — would include such data as: place of employment, associates, personal habits, schools attended, etc., according to *Privacy Journal*.

Therefore, a Paper Tripper's worn-out and discarded "old" identity might be picked up as a "missing person." However, the computerized bloodhound can't always follow the scent. Authorities were unable to follow the trail of facts leading to the whereabouts of a teenage boy who was reported missing after going to collect an overdue check from Gacy. The boy's father, understandably irate, gave the police the lead, even naming Gacy as a suspect in the murder. "I'd like to know what good are all their damn computers if they can't put two and two together," the boy's father said.

## A CLEAN SLATE

Army deserters represent another aspect of America's "identity crisis." The Pentagon estimates that there are approximately 3,000 Vietnam-era deserters — the majority living in the U.S. — who are not aware that they could receive an official Army discharge without prosecution (if desertion was their only violation). However, the discharge would be less than honorable — either "General" or "Undesirable." And, without an "Honorable" discharge, these deserters might feel that it is better to remain "lost."

Identified in this negative manner, a deserter cannot receive veterans benefits, such as health care and schooling. Also, many employers' doors will be closed in his face. Along with the 405,000 other Vietnam-era veterans who parted company with the military on less than friendly terms, these deserters suffer under a severe handicap which could ultimately cripple their ability to cope and progress. And that is the

deep war-wound which still hurts this country today: scarred lives and broken futures. Blanket "pardon" or no, is it any wonder that these men might seek relief from a terminal bad record?

## UNCLOGGING THE SYSTEM

President Carter's plan to dispose of the "bad paper" which was burying many ex-servicemen alive has taken a surprising turn. Because of the circumstances of the conflict at home and abroad, the stigma of an administrative discharge given under less than honorable conditions seemed an unfair burden to some 50,000 Vietnam-era ex-servicemen. In the war's aftermath, the debate, lawsuits and congressional action focused national attention on the problem. Now, encouraged by the American Civil Liberties Union's efforts (and veterans programs), the *three million citizens who carry bad paper from all eras* may try to toss their past into the bureaucratic "circular file," according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

"The issue has grown to such magnitude due to initiatives of the last two administrations that it has become big business," says Col. William E. Weber, president of the Army Discharge Review Board. In fiscal 1978, a total of 14,461 persons had their discharges upgraded. The Air Force approved 71.8% of its applications for upgraded discharges, the Army — 51.6%, and the Navy (including the Marine Corps.) — 40.2%, according to the *Times*. Yet, there appears to be little consistency in the way the services deal with the applications. This is because official Defense Department standards for upgrading discharges are vague, according to charges made by the ACLU.

Moreover, this trend in "bad paper" reviews is promoting the usual problems faced by the federal bureaucracy: a paperwork backlog. This is especially true of the Army, which handles most of the "bad paper" cases. Currently, the Army has a backlog of 25,000 cases. And, while all this military "waste"-paper clogs the system, lack of publicity is depriving many ex-servicemen of new starts, the ACLU alleges. For example, many veterans are not aware of the existence of a time limit (set for the end of 1979) which will invalidate any applications for review of cases more than 15 years old. Although the Army has shown consideration for obviously unfair treatment, it must — by its very nature — maintain the "military" attitude. As a sign outside the office of the president of the Army Discharge Review Board reads: "To err is human, to forgive divine — neither of which is Army Discharge Review Board policy."

## CHAINED TO THE PAST

Some advocates of the paper society want to use Big Brother's tactics to keep ex-cons under surveillance. Buffalo, NY, Mayor Jimmy Griffin has proposed that all convicted felons register with the city's police department. According to the plan, the individuals in question would be required to fill out questionnaires regarding: what the felonies were, when they were released from any prison terms, how long they plan on staying in Buffalo, and several other questions "letting us know just what the hell they're doing in Buffalo."

Griffin justifies his proposal by pointing out the existence of similar laws in Florida and Las Vegas — which have not been challenged in the courts. The Las Vegas law allows felons only 48 hours to register with the Clark County Sheriff's Department. The felon must provide his name, home address, Las Vegas address, and a list of criminal convictions.

Griffin wants to take this concept a step further. Although he has not presented the plan to the Common Council, Griffin informally suggested that college tuition-aid programs require applicants to state whether or not they have felony records.

The public and government response to this plan has been decidedly negative. The idea "smacks of totalitarianism. It's at least thirty years dated," says David Jay of the Lawyers Committee of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCCU). "Anyone who has paid his debt to society has discharged whatever responsibilities he has to society. Any such registration law would completely nullify any hopes of success in our system of justice which presumes that the penal system can rehabilitate people," according to the NYCCU. Moreover, as Albany County District Attorney Sol Greenberg concludes: "The people you would most want to register are the ones who would be least likely to do so." Such a system of blatantly branding an individual and chaining him to his past would infuriate many citizens. Although such a law would probably prove to be an exercise in futility, the proposal demonstrates the darker side of the bureaucratic mentality.

## JUST DOUBLE-CHECKING

Besides merely identifying a citizen, the bureaucracy enjoys the thoroughness of cross-checking and cross-referencing. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare's PRO-JECT MATCH — which ferrets out welfare cheats — marks a sly, baby-step towards Big

Brother's invasion of individual privacy, according to many civil libertarians. PROJECT MATCH's computers in Washington, D.C., are comparing a list of 1.8 million civilians on federal payroll with another list of welfare recipients in 21 states. In three months, the program has come up with 26,334 "hits" — names that appear on both lists, according to *Time* magazine.

"Public opinion is aroused when a central computer is proposed," says American Civil Liberties Union Privacy Project Director Trudy Hayden. "So this time, they're starting small, matching two little computer lists, affecting only the weak." Yet, "PROJECT MATCH exemplifies precisely the kind of manipulation of personal data that people most fear," adds John Shattuck, Washington director of the ACLU. And, according to David Linowes, chairman of the Privacy Protection Study Commission, "People shouldn't be treated as so many pieces of raw data being shunted about."

The HEW maintains that this project is absolutely necessary to the continuation of the welfare system. The department expects the current search to discover 10,000 to 12,000 government workers who are cheating the welfare program out of from \$10 million to \$24 million annually. However, HEW Secretary Joseph Califano promises, "We'll do this with delicacy and care," severely limiting access to names of individuals on welfare.

Yet, a massive search of personnel files could constitute a definite invasion of individual privacy. HEW Deputy Inspector General Charles Ruff admits this; but he maintains that it is not an "unreasonable" invasion of privacy. In fact, the department intends to expand the project to include all federal employees and to assist states in the development of their own "mini-MATCH," according to *Time*. The magazine adds that pressure from civil libertarians has forced Califano to temporarily shelve a plan to utilize the help of private corporations to search out welfare recipients on their payrolls.

## RX: SECRET DOSSIERS

Medical records are another important source of information and identification for the insatiable data monitors to devour. The Medical Information Bureau (MIB) — yet another member of this society's "fact-consumers" — maintains computerized files on about 11 million individuals. With headquarters in Greenwich, CT, this nonprofit membership organization shares its data with about 700 life insurance companies. The bureau has files on almost 10% of all people who apply for life insurance.

However, information cannot be provided to the companies without a signed authorization from the individual involved, the MIB says.

Also, the MIB's files do not contain people's complete medical histories, according to William Swarts, the bureau's associate general counsel. The only information entered in the files is that "which is of underwriting significance," Swarts says. For example, a heart attack victim might have information listed on him under a code for cardiovascular diseases. Other codes cover gastrointestinal, nervous and respiratory illnesses. The average file consists of less than three coded entries. However, Swarts is "a little hesitant to talk about specific codes."

The MIB is also interested in nonmedical information that could affect an individual's life span — such as a history of reckless driving, or participation in a potentially hazardous sport like sky-diving, for example.



The MIB system works like this: Suppose that a person takes out a life insurance policy with Company A, which is an MIB member. The individual provides certain information that the company forwards to the bureau. Later, the same person applies for another policy with Company B, also an MIB member. With the individual's permission, Company B asks the bureau for the person's record. The bureau says that it updates all information. Each separate report is automatically erased after seven years. Also, the controversy over privacy rights has led the MIB to eliminate certain types of data from its files and to make changes in its operational procedure.

A person can obtain a copy of his MIB report by contacting the bureau's information office: Post Office Box 105, Essex Station, Boston, MA 02112. The data will be nonmedical (about 5% of the total in a typical file). Medical information will be disclosed only to the person's doctor, who can then pass the data on to the patient.

If the individual feels that there is an error in his record, he can contact the bureau. In accordance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act,

the file will be corrected, the MIB says. However, although the MIB is covered by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the organization is *not* a credit bureau and does not collect financial data or make decisions about granting a policy.

Yet, the MIB has custody of a lot of potentially dangerous data. *Mother Jones* magazine reports that when Sen. Edward Kennedy discovered the existence of the MIB during hearings several years ago, he argued that its files should be opened to the public: "Medical information . . . is so important to a person's life and health that it deserves special safeguards to assure the accuracy and currency of the information, and the fair treatment of the consumer."

The federal Privacy Protection Study Commission also found fault with the MIB. After two years of research, it concluded that:

1. Consumers lack adequate knowledge of how their medical records will be used.
2. Some insurance companies base adverse decisions solely on MIB information — despite assurances to the contrary.
3. Critics maintain that the applicant cannot require that his application *not* be used by the MIB. Even examining doctors themselves are not told that the medical information they compile will be disseminated to the hundreds of insurance companies.

Also, one MIB employee told *Mother Jones* that the firm employs one person to spot-check and verify reports. This does not say much for their emphasis on accuracy when one considers the fact that 400,000 new files come in every year.

However, even if this organization is as vigilant about security practices as it claims, the fact remains that dossiers are being created. They exist as a temptation to data-seekers and a

possible source of problems and pain for the individuals involved. There are many less than honorable firms which are not meticulous about the quality of the information they compile. One organization called EQUIFAX (designed to "help out" insurance companies)



maintains dossiers on about 47 million Americans. These dossiers contain a mixture of impertinent fact and irrelevant — and sometimes false — gossip, according to Aryeh Neier, executive director of the ACLU. Until 1971, citizens had no legal right to know what was in such files. This situation has given these firms a frightening amount of control over people's lives and futures.

## II. ...AND TAKING TO THE ROAD

*I shall be telling with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

—Robert Frost

Many people, plagued with worries and problems, cannot decide which road to take, which course to follow. As Chapter I shows, government is demonstrating a growing preoccupation with social control through the increased use of the bureaucracy's paper monitoring systems. Many citizens are becoming aware of it; and they want to escape it. Yet, they listen to the Establishment's equation of alternate identity with crime, not realizing that the concept may be unfair and overstated. After all, the government relies on false ID itself. Here are more examples of the current situation:

### A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Identification documents' close relationship to crime is one of the reasons the government gives for its fervent interest in the subject. Forged ID papers cause U.S. banks and stores to suffer losses of \$31 billion annually. Some people who use phony ID for questionable or illegal purposes are amateurs. However, most are professionals working through organized rings, according to a recent UPI article. The rings are often operated by criminals who — for a fee — will give backup verification of the fake ID:

*A girl sits in a room with a telephone connected to an answering service for a long list of numbers. When she gets a call from a bank or store about Paul X, she checks a card file and answers unblushingly, "Yes, Mr. X is employed here, and he has been with us year and makes \$18,000 a year," reading off the card information which she knows is false.*

*In an even more sophisticated operation, the rings, operating under various fictitious business names, succeed in feeding false credit information directly into the computers of legitimate credit reporting agencies about various fictitious individuals. The criminals*

*rush out to the banks and stores and make a killing taking out loans and running up big bills for valuable merchandise that can be fenced. Then they vanish.*

Obviously, stores and financial institutions are now painfully aware of the problem. Why, then, don't they take forceful counter-measures? The main reason is that *carelessness* on the part of bank officials and credit managers is fostering the growth of their losses, according to the trade magazine, *Bank Systems and Equipment*. Moreover, many of the people who are supposed to be "in charge" do not want to prosecute and, thus, admit their stupidity or naivete publicly. Others don't want to invest the time and money required to pursue the matter. Also, people with the "right paper" are difficult to detect at first because "the computer can't have sudden flashes of intuitive suspicion as a human clerk can," UPI says.

Perhaps some people have abused the concept of alternate ID, apparently "successfully." However, we do not condone such foolish misapplications of the blessings of Paper Tripping. We all know that the abuse of a philosophy or movement does not negate its value. How often have people misused religion, politics or government for their own selfish purposes? Just as Watergate did not diminish the value of politicians, the inappropriate uses of Paper Trip techniques cannot label the concept criminal or "without redeeming social value" for the average citizen.

### STOLEN ID

"What's in a name?" Army Pvt. Gary Guinn is beginning to find out. In December 1976, Guinn's wallet — complete with "an old driver's license, a Social Security card and two credit cards" — was stolen from his car. For the seven months before his arrest, the alleged thief used the ID and forged Guinn's name to get a job, apply for loans, buy a car and furniture, and even sell blood, according to an Associated Press article.

However, no past-due bills were incurred. Therefore, the judge ruled that Lester Sanders (who was arrested on charges of forgery and

receiving and concealing stolen property) did not intend to defraud Guinn. Thus, charges were not prosecuted. "This is a unique case. Normally, someone will steal identification, use it for a few days and then get rid of it," according to Detective Jerry Moore of the Nashville, TN, police department.

Guinn is "sorry the court took this so lightly. It seems like *it's pretty easy to assume someone else's identity.*" Sanders took Guinn's name and "made a mess of it," Moore says. And, "today, a man's name means a lot. In this day of computers, most employers and credit companies make a call to find out whether someone has a good record. Who knows how many times Guinn might have been turned down for a job or a loan because someone else using his ID's established a bad record for him?" Moore adds.

## FEDERAL PAPER TRIPPING FALTERS

Not only have amateur con artists and organized crime rings abused the concept of alternate ID, but the government also is getting into the act. . . . Only, Uncle Sam hasn't perfected his routine as yet.

The federal government creates alternate identities, complete with false ID, on the average of twice a day, according to *Time* magazine. In order to coax reluctant witnesses (many of whom are criminals themselves) to testify against the Mafia or other organized criminals, the government promises to provide the protective camouflage of a false — yet supposedly foolproof — new identity. The legal sanction for this procedure is a passage from the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. Title V ("Protected Facilities for Housing Government Witnesses") allows the Justice Department to protect informers and witnesses in "safe houses" until their court testimony and then to relocate them (sometimes after their own prison sentences). Thus, with the blessings of the U.S. government, the Justice Department creates a new "person," complete with "constructed" Social Security card, driver's license and educational and job histories. However, as with all worldly creations, there is no true perfection. . . .

Some individuals now regret their confidence in the Witness Security Program. One veteran of the protection program (a Florida cocaine and marijuana dealer whose grand jury testimony helped indict another dealer) calls his experience a "comedy of errors," according to *The Florida Times-Union*. After the indictment came down, the witness was sent to Providence, RI, in the care of the U.S. Marshal Service. He says he received a new name, driver's license,

Social Security card and \$671 a month in subsistence pay, plus hotel and transportation expenses. He was assured he would receive a birth certificate — but it never arrived.

Also, job promises were not fulfilled. "Indeed, my background is not one of shining-armor caliber," the witness admits. "But the program did make overrated promises. The program was supposed to place me in the mainstream of life. Instead, it would have been suicidal to take the jobs offered." The bad job opportunities and the absence of the guaranteed resume with references forced the witness to take the problem of background "reconstruction" into his own hands. This, in turn, led to more "relocations." Moreover, when the resume finally arrived, "it was at best worthless," he says. It was unprofessional, listing places worked but lacking dates of employment and names of employers and their cities.

One of the most famous participants in the program is Gerald Martin Zelmanowitz, whose testimony resulted in the conviction of Mafia Capo Angelo "Gyp" DeCarlo. A private detective easily penetrated the first cover of this well-known witness when the "former" Zelmanowitz became involved in a civil lawsuit. The Zelmanowitz family had become the Maris family. However, the Justice Department had sent them Social Security cards with *consecutive numbers*. Also, officials at Mr. Maris' "alma maters" had no record of him. His former "home address" was a vacant lot. His Army "service number" had never been officially issued; and there was no record of his birth certificate, *Time* magazine reports.

Experiences like these have led to a federal review of the program. Currently, about ten lawsuits (most still pending) have been filed against the government by "protected" witnesses, according to a Justice Department spokesman. The \$13-million program's "cost-effectiveness" is also in question, says Deputy Attorney General Peter Flaherty. Moreover, there is a question of morality, according to *THE ALIAS PROGRAM* (Little, Brown, \$8.95) by CBS correspondent Fred Graham. "Should the Government officially adopt a program dedicated to telling lies?" Graham asks.

## THE PLOT SICKENS

The current FBI emphasis is on undercover operations, using undercover agents to infiltrate organized crime and illegal activities in white collar businesses, according to recent testimony before a Senate judiciary subcommittee. In fact, the FBI has spent \$3 million on 71 undercover operations in 1978; and the number

of such activities is increasing, says Francis X. O'Brien, an agency official. However, there are no clear-cut guidelines for approval of FBI operations and no specific limitations on the lengths to which agents can go without violating citizens' rights.

The primary problem seems to be that undercover agents get a little too involved in their "roles." This often leads to illegal "method-acting," making it difficult to tell the cops from the robbers without an outline of the plot. In some operations, agents buy or lease cars or establish bank accounts with the aid of *false identification* and often in violation of local law, says FBI official Joseph E. Henahan. For example, one FBI agent — assuming a false identity — was arrested on local charges of carrying an unlicensed pistol. Because he was part of an undercover operation, he was allowed to appear in court under his fake identity; and charges were ultimately dropped. In another operation, agents posing as businessmen paid out bribes and protection money to local police and officials.

Agents' maneuvers have promoted questions about entrapment, deliberate violation of the law, and what to do with profits earned in businesses established to capture the wily white collar criminal, according to a recent copyrighted Associated Press story. This situation appears to be a blatant case of double standards — with Big Brother saying, "Do what I say, not what I do."

## AN AMERICAN TRADITION

Taking an affirmative action to change your identity is not a revolutionary idea. It's a little-known but time-honored tradition in the United States: "Indeed, most people don't realize how *common* name-changing is in this country. It's *one of the overlooked freedoms*," explains Ted Morgan in his book *ON BECOMING AMERICAN*.

Ever since the early days when the first Americans — the Indians — used the device of name-change to denote accomplishment (sort of like a tribal "promotion"), Americans have changed their names in order to gain some form of success and/or acceptance. According to Morgan, some of the traditional reasons for a change of name are:

- For simplification (accidentally or intentionally — as with immigrants);
- To avoid ridicule or obvious ethnic classification;
- To create a dignified or impressive name or "title";

— To manufacture a marketable movie name (i.e., Marilyn Monroe);

— To avoid or utilize historical name associations (i.e., Hitler);

— To escape.

This last reason — escape — has to do with basic human nature in general and the American character in particular. Intertwined with the cherished ideas of freedom and flight, it is a vital part of the settlement of this country and its westward expansion. Immigrants, pioneers, and fugitives alike were trying to get away from the past and achieve a new and better lifestyle "out West." The whole concept has become very idealized and romantic.



What some people do not realize, however, is that the custom did not die with the closing of the frontier — and, in fact, is still flourishing today. As Morgan says. . . "In America, people disappear all the time. They are casualties of the success ethic, or have had an overdose of family life, or are suffering from an identity crisis. People say they are going to the corner store for cigarettes, and step out into another life. *It's easy enough to change one's name.*" And, more and more Americans are beginning to better understand the motives behind such an action, according to experts.

## STATE OF THE UNION

Americans are turning "inward" — away from government and political involvement, away from the constant civic attention forced upon them by such issues as Watergate, civil rights and the Vietnam war, according to pollsters and analysts of the American scene. "People have retreated into their own lives

much as they did in the '50s, but without the values of the '50s," says Norman Nie of the National Opinion Research Center.

Currently, people are trying to brace the family unit against the increasing economic burden. As they seek answers to their problems, they reflect feelings of deepening disillusionment with the value of government services and programs, according to Alan L. Otten of the *Wall Street Journal*. There is an obvious mistrust of Uncle Sam's ability to get things done. "The people are caught in the middle," says Mervin Field, head of Field Research Corp. "Their incomes are going up, but prices and taxes are going up faster. Their neighborhoods are changing. Their kids aren't turning out well."

As Democratic pollster Peter Hart explains, "People used to feel there was an orderliness in their lives. They could set economic goals and lifestyle goals. Now, there's a great uncertainty, a lack of order, nothing's working. People would like some degree of tranquility back in their lives." And, since they cannot seem to find a realistic hope for that tranquility, many Americans are "outraged . . . apprehensive . . . resigned . . . angry . . . frustrated . . . turned-off . . . cynical . . . bitter," Otten summarizes. If he cannot receive an economic miracle, the average American is ready for at least a choice or two . . . an option . . . an alternative . . . an "escape route" leading to freedom.

## SELF-DETERMINATION

Freedom is the power to make one's own choices without constraint or interference. It is a sort of natural autonomy. It implies self-management rather than outside domination. It is a concept *THE PAPER TRIP I* promotes.

The Paper Trip philosophy stresses the individual's direction of his own life as he makes his way through the bureaucratic maze. With the right information and skills, a person can use the selective revelation of his "background" to achieve the desired identity or identities. And like a master artist applying the final brush stroke, the individual can verify that identity with the proper documentation.

A person can control his "paper personality." He must learn to modify society's "behavior training." He doesn't have to behave like one of Pavlov's dogs and supply all requested data just because a form is pushed in his face and a pen forced into his hand. He can take advantage of his knowledge of federal law and procedures. For example, an individual does not have to provide masses of personal information at job or credit interviews. He does not have to reveal

information about: date of birth, charge accounts, home or car ownership, marital status or number of children. Also, an interviewer cannot ask about an arrest record (although the interviewer may ask if the applicant was ever convicted of a crime). All of these "forbidden" questions could be interpreted as discriminatory under certain circumstances.

Therefore, *control of identity* is ultimately the key not only to privacy but also to the safeguarding of personal opportunities, property and possessions. And, this is where *THE PAPER TRIP I* comes in. . . . Identity can be manipulated to the individual's advantage; and *THE PAPER TRIP I* is the basic guide for the creation of alternate identity.

However, Paper Trippers face a paradoxical problem. They can "vanish" by becoming "nameless," using cash and living anonymously, if they like. Or they can begin using new names and plug back into computerized society, realizing they may only be repeating their mistakes. There is a possible solution: Paper Trippers can re-enter this data-collecting culture on their own terms and in only those areas of transaction they choose to link to each name.

In fact, many people — who do not want to "drop out" of their present lifestyle entirely — can utilize Paper Trip techniques to avoid the System's traps. An individual can maintain selected divisions in his life, thereby creating areas of "unmonitored" or "uncontrolled" activity. (Or, if the area is monitored, it is with the individual's full knowledge and on his terms.)

Besides having the emergency option of a complete "Escape ID," the average citizen can discriminate and separate the ID-type and level he presents in social and economic "transactional areas." Social identification areas include family and friends, school, community/politics, utilities, subscriptions, etc. The economic areas are the job, business, banking and investments/property/trusts. The individual is capable of exerting control in the areas of ID that affect him most. Remember. . . .

*The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.*

—John Stuart Mill



### III.

# SURVIVAL SUGGESTIONS

*The last freedom — freedom to flee.*  
—Berliner Illustrirte

## RUNAWAYS

Runaways present no distinct composite profile of common characteristics. They come from every variety of lifestyle and family background. Statistics show that the age span ranges from eleven to nearly eighty. Education and career have no bearing on the subject: professionals, businessmen, artists, housewives, truck drivers, welfare recipients — all have joined the mobile ranks of the runaway population.

However, studies indicate that the one common denominator is panic. Although there are some cool Paper Trip aficionados and arm-chair data-hounds who intelligently plan ahead — on a contingency basis, the majority of runaways make no prior plans. They simply “stampede” like frightened animals. Usually, a runaway’s feeling of distress and inability to cope is so acute and so threatening that the only solution appears to be to try to outrun the pain. The suffering can stem from many different sources: family, finances, school, legal hassles, psychological problems, and even social consciousness (as in the case of “radicals”), etc.

This desperation to break out of a personal prison of pain is not a new phenomenon for Americans. Back in Colonial times, many men deserted homes, families and responsibilities for a solo stint of personally-commissioned frontier exploration. The problem became so grave in the colony of Rhode Island that the community drafted a formal decision to provide aid to the abandoned families, according to *Family Weekly* magazine. Today, the problem has grown along with the population. Although it is difficult to compile statistics (too many different agencies and unreported runaways), the best estimate is that throughout the country several million “fugitives” are on the run from their problems and their pasts. For example:

— The government estimates that between 300,000 and 500,000 teenagers runaway annually. Child abuse, incessant family fighting and

bad grades are some of the reasons. “Every year the problems that drive kids to run away become more serious,” according to a spokesman for the Covenant House, a shelter for young runaways.

— Each year, an increasing number of wives make a run for it — attempting to escape difficult domestic problems, physical abuse, emotional neglect, or a feeling of worthlessness.

— Some men leave to get a “poor man’s divorce” (no alimony or child support payments). Sometimes, men — and women — are so traumatized by the thought of “DIVORCE” or “LEGAL SEPARATION” that they would rather just run away.

— Debt and/or the inability to find a job can make a person lose respect for himself and drive him to hide from the family and friends he feels he has “failed.”

— Some senior citizens (mostly men) run from the humiliation of a dependent, institutionalized existence at rest homes and hospitals.

However, because most of these runaways make a dash for freedom on an impulse, they are ill-equipped for marathon “running.” They usually do not have adequate money, plans or knowledge to put them on the right trail to a new life. Although some have the selfish forethought to ransack the joint bank account before their departure, that money is not always enough to last for a prolonged period of time. Therefore, most runaways wind up in menial jobs — or worse. Those who have union cards or clerical skills have an easier time. Many are not aware of the “procedure” for changing their identities — for obtaining “proper” ID, credentials and references. Thus, the new life is rough; and many fatigued “runners” ultimately give up and go home.

However, whether a person escapes to a new life or voluntarily returns to the old, he is not a “crazy person.” For example, some juvenile court caseworkers say that often the runaway child is the healthiest member of the family, according to *Family Weekly*. The kid knows he’s in a bad situation and that something must be done. Running away is a distress signal, communicating the only way he can find to deal with his problems.

Sometimes, even for grown-up runaways, leaving a painful situation is the only way to sidestep psychological or emotional defeat and destruction. For some, maybe liberation and free flight is the only route to a kind of personal salvation — since the previous “existence” obviously could provide no real sanctuary for a troubled spirit.



## “THE TALES OF HOFFMAN”

The former Yippie leader and member of the Chicago Seven — Abbie Hoffman — presents a radical example of the immediate need to vanish. Facing a probable life sentence for dealing cocaine, Hoffman did a disappearing act in March, 1974. He sent society a last formal message from “the other side,” stating that he intended to remain a fugitive-subversive disembodied from The System. In a rare interview with *Playboy Magazine*, Hoffman shares some of his unique and sophisticated expertise on life after the death of an outworn identity.

Hoffman says that he had been preparing for a long time before the actual idea or need for his radical reincarnation occurred. Discarding the idea of living under his original identity as an exile seeking political asylum, Hoffman concluded that the best alternative was to create a new identity. As early as 1971, he decided to try a “dry run” with a false ID card while visiting the island of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. He rented a house and a car. Arrested for not having a special tourist driver’s license, he “nonchalantly” managed to end up with only a \$5 fine. Not wanting to be recognized, of course, Hoffman says, “I walk up to the (judge’s) bench sideways and talk in an altered voice. . . . Later, I find out it is *perfectly legal* to live in a U.S. colony assuming an alias — you can use an alias as long as it’s not for purposes of fraud.”

However, Hoffman’s situation is not a case of an “average citizen” simply slipping into a new

identity. To say that Hoffman previously maintained a high level of media visibility is an understatement. He has a very public past to outrun. Therefore, he felt a change in physical appearance would assist his search for freedom. Before he became an Official Fugitive from Justice, he opted for plastic surgery — not only to look more “Aryan” but also to “age” himself. The doctors accepted the explanation that Hoffman was doing a TV series for children in Canada and needed to look somewhat “grandfatherly.” The problems with plastic surgery are the pain and the price. Hoffman says it took him three weeks to recover. And, as for the bill, he says: “The doctor hurt me, so I skipped out. Blue Cross doesn’t pay for that kind of thing.”

To help with his physical transformation, Hoffman changed his style of clothes. He learned karate to change his walk, and lost ten pounds in the process. He utilized the knowledge he had acquired about make-up for television appearances. He even experimented with changing his famous frizzy brown hair to sleek Nordic blond. However, he says not everything works. And he “is trying *everything* out — except for drag.”

For added protection, Hoffman has modified his behavior. “You have to be different all the way through,” he explains. “I trained myself to change my eye movements. I use to make eye contact with everyone; now I know how to glaze over, keep preoccupied.” For the sake of security, Hoffman has had to be “reborn” several times. Thus, with new friends he is a new, different person — maybe several different persons. Although these mental gymnastics can be difficult, after several years of practice they go smoothly: “I have several levels of identity. Like now I’m Abbie, but if a friend came into this room who knew me as Brian, I’d be Abbie and Brian both; and when you leave, I’ll be all Brian — except for what I write and lock in the trunk. It gives me exhilaration and confidence to realize I can move from one role to another.”

## THE SENTINEL

When U.S. Passport Office Director Frances Knight officially suggested that every American citizen should carry a national identification card, individuals throughout the country shared an involuntary reflex action of paranoia. Granted, Miss Knight was righteously trying to purge America of criminals and con artists who pack false paper instead of pistols to achieve their greedy objectives. Yet, many people argued that the impact of this proposal on the honest, everyday citizen would be too much to

withstand. The fear was this: Not only will each person be forced to be his brother's keeper, but Big Brother will have us all under lock and key. This concept is completely alien, not to mention unacceptable, to the American character, as the Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification points out. . . .

*Arguments against a standardized national ID card include the belief that such documentation is in opposition to American tradition and would represent an invasion of personal privacy, and that data required for citizen identification could be abused by government or private interests. . . .*

*It is certain that any new system designed to verify and store identity information on over 200 million people would be extremely expensive and require a major national effort. It is highly probable that proposals for such a system would be opposed politically. If such a system were implemented . . . it would be subject to defeat by imposters or counterfeiters taking advantage of careless inspection of documents or through corruption of officials. Occasional errors would also occur . . . that could adversely affect innocent people.*

*The Committee therefore strongly opposes any new type of State or local government-issued ID intended to supersede existing documents. In short, the Committee opposes any so-called national ID card.*

Although the idea of a mandatory national ID card has been rejected . . . for the time being, the specter of this totalitarian monitoring system still haunts many free-thinking individuals. It prompted one adventurous soul to experiment with creating his own escape route through the use of an alternate identity. In David Black's article "Shedding Skin" in *New Times* magazine (Oct., '75), the author considers people's motives for taking the Paper Trip. . . .

"What I was doing — abandoning my old life to start over again — was not uncommon. People fed up with jobs and families and the **endless round** of habit leave home and drop out of sight all the time. These are not political activists, driven underground by circumstances and cops, but ordinary citizens who sometimes whimsically, often grimly, are responding to an appetite that is not satisfied by the humdrum of their old lives."

The successful transmigration into a new life is an almost transcendental experience. It is an uplifting achievement in a down-to-earth society which defines identity by physical evidence: job, residence, relationships (existence of family, friends, associates). According to Black, "Escaping from your old identity is the

greatest high in the world." It provides feelings of accomplishment and potential. The "average person" can use the System to his own advantage instead of allowing the System to use him for its mindless convenience.



## THE GREAT ESCAPE

Beating the System requires some basic knowledge. Sometimes, wisdom can only be achieved through trial-and-error experience. Fortunately, on other occasions, novices can rely on experienced trail-blazers to put them on the right path. Here is some valuable information, courtesy of some successful Paper Trippers who have been down the road once or twice:

— Voluntarily becoming a "missing person" is not a criminal offense. Most police departments do not even investigate such reports unless there is a warrant out for arrest or evidence indicating the possibility of suicide or "foul play." "As far as a husband or wife type thing," says Roger Smith of the Washington, D.C. Police Department, Missing Persons Division, "usually we tell them up front, family matters or domestic situations are not 'missing persons.' Even if we did take a report and locate an individual who had left his home, we can't violate his rights and tell the family where he is."

— It is *not* illegal to change your identity — as long as you (a) do not change your name for criminal purposes (intent to defraud) and (b) do not lie on official government forms about having had a previous identity (filing false affidavits, perjury).

— A common mistake is the belief that merely assuming a new name will provide an adequate disguise. Some "unenlightened" runaways even choose a new name with the same initials. Although convenient and easy for the memory, such maneuvers are obvious and will not provide permanent protection.

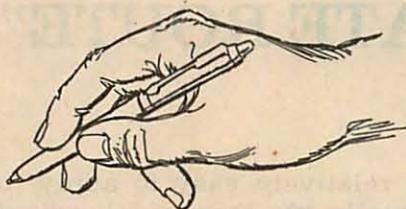
— When launching a new identity, simplicity is best. Obviously, elements of your previous identity which are awkward or don't fit in with your new life must be jettisoned. However, it is easier to avoid complications by not "inventing" unless there is no other alternative. Remaining true to your essential personality helps prevent slip-ups.

— However, you don't have to hang on to outworn habits which may give you away. It is not vital to your soul's well-being to play tennis every Saturday morning, subscribe to the same publications, patronize the same stores and gas stations, or use the same credit cards.

— Develop a little humility. In many situations we use past achievements to identify ourselves and impress others. At first, a Paper Tripper may feel a twinge of pain when his new identity does not allow him to boast about his college education or his last job coup. (Conversely, it pays to know when to list your "accomplishments," such as on a job application.)

— Prior conditioning can seriously inhibit your "transformation." Practice saying your name out loud. Mental memorization is not sufficient. No matter how much you long for a new identity, the comfortable familiarity of your original name can make you very uneasy about introducing yourself in your new "incarnation."

— The same philosophy applies to handwriting. You must practice to overcome any panic or hesitation when writing your new signature.



— Your own paranoia is your biggest enemy. It is more dangerous than any bureaucratic maze or inquisitive official.

— Time spent in your new identity helps you really become that person. As with new clothes, with a little time and wear, the new identity becomes familiar and comfortable — and uniquely yours.

— Learn to supply what sells. Use your common sense and become adept at a little basic character analysis. If you reaffirm rather than threaten a person's world concept, he will find it easier to relax and accept you.

— A "drifter" past often charms people who fantasize about that lifestyle. Also, a "runaway" who had the nerve to leave all his many (but vaguely-identified) hassles behind sometimes stirs admiration and sympathy. Americans seem to have a fondness for the James Dean-style of rebel or anti-hero. However, these "macho" stories don't appeal to everyone. Figure out the type of person you are trying to convince.

— Be friendly!

— Never lose your temper!

— New friends are good "props." They not only provide good support as contacts and local references, but they help bolster your morale during your initial "identity-crisis." A loner tends to make people suspicious.

— Take advantage of all opportunities which allow you to blend into the local picture and appear to be a "solid citizen."

— Money is a great reference. Besides being impressive proof of your claims of being a "respectable citizen," money allows you to build stronger evidence of your identity with checking and savings accounts (if you plan to remain in one place).

— Paradoxically, a Post Office box promotes both privacy and community involvement. When you apply, you become an official citizen; yet, you still maintain confidentiality. With a local address and job, it is not difficult to get a Post Office box.

— If you think you are being "followed" for some reason, consider the fact that most law enforcement officials and professional skip tracers know that California and Florida are the most popular destinations for runaways. Many people try to cover their tracks with miles instead of good ID. Conserve your money and your energy. You do not have to travel far to completely outdistance past problems. Read on...

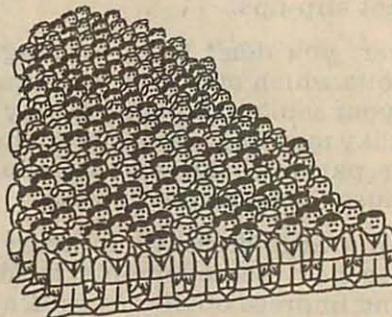
— By taking advantage of the convenience and anonymity provided by the nearest large city, some Paper Trippers choose to firmly establish their new identities before cutting all ties with the old. As one accomplished Paper Tripper, "Fred X.," explains in an article in *Free Enterprise*: "I decided that it would be possible, even easy, to establish my new identity while living my old one — so that when I did split, there would not only be a new name waiting for me, but a new job, an apartment, the works.... The sheer immensity of New York City would provide me with the anonymity I was looking for. It would be easy for me to beg off a day from work here and there, travel to New

York City, and be home in time for dinner with the family."

— Some individuals create their own "official" stationery in order to write glowing — but convincing — references for themselves. For example, Fred X. sent innocuous requests for information to companies he later claimed as former places of employment. In this way, he obtained their letterheads. Fred clipped off the letterheads and superimposed them over the addresses of out-of-town mail-forwarding services which he'd retained from the classified sections of out-of-town newspapers: "Using a color Xerox machine, I created new stationery bearing the company logos and my forwarding addresses. This method allowed me not only to write letters of recommendation for myself, but also to respond to any follow-up mail from prospective employers. (All of the mail-forwarding services I used also had telephone-answering arrangements, allowing any calls to the 'companies' to be immediately referred to me.)"

— Some imaginative individuals collect on old "debts" in order to obtain credit in their new names. One person talked three trusted friends into installing extra telephones in their offices for a two-month period. One answered as a

credit-lending bureau, another as a landlord, and the third as a former employer. However, your plans need not be this complicated or elaborate to succeed. For more information on the subject, you might refer to a book titled *CREDIT!*, \$12.95 from Eden Press.



Thus, the main objective is to disappear into the crowd, to become inconspicuous. Like a chameleon, a Paper Tripper's self-preservation depends upon his ability to blend harmoniously into his chosen environment. Ms. Knight and the Paper Vigilantes may regard him as a mere reptilian low-life, deserving only extinction. However, many others see him as a noble breed of independent, changing the color of his skin in order to survive in a hostile environment.

## IV. THE "BIRTH CERTIFICATE ROUTE"

*The journey of a thousand miles begins  
with a single step.*

—Lao-Tse

### THE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENT

It is generally true that all ID begins with a birth certificate. An individual's original identity (name) is usually recorded at or near his time of birth. The actual document which is prepared by the hospital's staff, signed by the physician, and retained by the county recorder in a "vital records" department provides the master from which subsequent "certified" copies are prepared.

With a "certified" copy of a birth certificate, issued by some agency of state or local govern-

ment, it is relatively easy to apply for and receive virtually any form of ID desired. This type of birth certificate provides a legal basis for the issuance of Social Security cards, driver's licenses, state ID cards, even passports.

The foundation for creating an alternate identity is to obtain an "alternate" birth certificate — one in a name other than your own. We have found that there are at least four general methods for locating and obtaining an alternate birth certificate. Before we outline these techniques, however, we should make the following observations.

*THE PAPER TRIP* does not recommend using any "government" ID that is not actually issued by the various agencies themselves. The establishing of a new identity is made riskier when-

ever one tries to use stolen, forged or counterfeited "official" documents. They're not worth the paper they're printed on, and can cause problems to compound quickly in unforeseen circumstances. It is far better to have the different government agencies issue directly to you the various forms of ID you need. And all the information you need to get started appears on a birth certificate — someone else's, that is.

But who is this "someone else"? Obviously it shouldn't be someone who is now living, since you would then be duplicating an existing set of ID. While this is done by certain individuals for very specific purposes, it is not suitable for *THE PAPER TRIP* since it would lead most likely to an early and easy detection. The "someone else" must be a person of your sex, race, and approximate age who is no longer living, and thus has no further need of ID in his (recorded) name. The challenge lies in finding such a person and ultimately obtaining a certified copy of his birth certificate.

The following methods will enable you to receive an unquestionably genuine birth document from most county recorders. Once you have the data you need to know, you will be able to order (by mail, if you wish) a certified copy to be sent directly to you.

Before you begin your research, however, you should realize that some of the following methods, when put into practice, might possibly be against local and/or state regulations. We would urge you to seek competent legal advice before embarking on any procedure that might jeopardize your future safety. Although "street" wisdom says don't trust lawyers, we have found that attorneys are generally candid and discreet in dealing with problems *before* they occur.

## OBITUARY METHOD

This first method lets you take over "living" for a person who has just recently died. Take any newspaper and scan the obituary columns, looking for a person who has just died within a few years of your present age. An out-of-state paper is sometimes safer, especially if you live in a small state. Many such papers can be found at the local library. Once you've located a good prospect, you should feel at ease about the situation, place, and possible family connections before going after his birth certificate.

A good Tripper then writes to the funeral home, cemetery, or family, expressing surprise and regret that his old school friend, service buddy, or boyhood pal passed away, and that he'd like to be assured it was even him. If they would be so kind as to verify his birthdate and place of

birth, it would bring greater peace of mind, etc., etc. (He might even throw fictitious information at them regarding the date and place of birth; and in their reply, they will undoubtedly be pleased to "correct" his inquiry by providing the *exact* information!) Any facts gleaned from the obituary notice are excellent points of reference in his letter. Good use of imagination will gain him even more specific information regarding the person's background, life situation, and so on.

A variation of this method would be to write the Clerk of the county in which the obituary notice was published for a copy of the deceased's death certificate. A simple explanation that you are the "historian" of his graduation class or fraternity, or simply an interested family member who maintains a family history, plus a \$2 or \$3 fee (telephone first for amount), will get you a copy of the death certificate. This handy document will list all the information you will need for then obtaining his birth certificate. Place and date of birth, mother's maiden name, race, etc. will all be listed.

When you get the facts you need, simply write the Clerk of the county where the person was born, using an appropriate title such as "Office (or Department) of Vital Statistics," "County Recorder," "Bureau of Vital Records," etc., and request a certified copy of "your" birth certificate. Enclose the right fee (\$2-3 in cash or money order), and you should receive it in a few days through the mail. Incidentally, the County Clerk or Recorder will have his office and files in a town known as the "county seat." A quick check of an atlas or good encyclopedia will tell you which city or town this is.

If assuming your new name for this purpose seems too direct or "up front," use a letterhead such as that of an investigating agency or any kind of employer, and state that for coverage in your company's group life insurance policy, or for security clearance, you are requesting a certified copy of so-and-so's birth certificate. Include the fee, naturally, and you'll get the copy fast, no questions asked. Public records are available to the public.

You could also request and receive the document in person, particularly if the birth certificate is recorded in a large, populous county. You'll receive it all the faster this way. Avoid the personal appearance, however, if you're going after someone who was from a rural area. There's always a good chance the clerk might have known the person or heard of his recent demise. Reason must always prevail.

With the Obituary Method, you should realize that if you use the *birth certificate of someone* who had already entered adult life, he *more than*

likely had contracted debts, had a Social Security number and driver's license. He might have been married, had a police record, even a few outstanding warrants. . . .

This type of birth certificate is strictly lightweight, in that you may not be able to remain hidden very long. It's good for a wild weekend or two, or for disappearing in a hurry. For the longer term, you will need a more reliable form of birth certificate, one less susceptible to quick detection.

## OLD NEWSPAPER METHOD

The birth certificate you obtain by using this method enables you to become a person who died long before he got entangled in the paper morass you're now trying to escape. Again, his birthdate should be around your own; but you don't have to go tripping through graveyards to look him up. Cemetery "research" has been used, and it works; but there's a much more convenient way.

Simply go to the main library of any large city, university or college, or a newspaper's principal office and take a look at the old newspapers recorded there on microfilm. Choose a year in which you would have been no older than ten and begin looking for articles in which a young child of your sex, race, and age (then) was killed in some kind of accident. Excellent possibilities would be those in which an entire family was wiped out, as there would be little remembered of them by now.

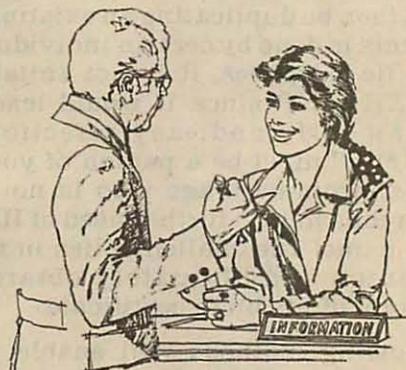
Check the obituaries, too, especially for deaths of children under the age of five. Under this age, at least 90% of those who die do so in the same county where they were born. Make sure the date of the newspaper is such that the age of the deceased and your age at that time were roughly the same.

In writing for the birth certificate, unless the article or obituary states where the child was born, assume that he was born in the same county where he died. Request a certified copy either as that person, or as an employer or investigator who requires it in order to hire that person, approve him for special clearance, etc. If that particular county has no record of the birth, try either a populous neighboring county or write for another name. Some states maintain central files of all birth and death records; and the County Clerk will likely refer you there if he cannot help you. Follow this lead up, too.

You'll find, though, that many newspapers, particularly those in rural areas, are amazingly complete in their details of tragedies in which a spectacular accident killed several or all

members of a family. Everything you need to know will be right there in front of you.

While you are researching the microfilm, it might be a good idea to compile a list of at least half a dozen good possibilities. A few might understandably prove useless for you (wrong race, for example), or you might want to construct multiple identities for possible use in the future. There will undoubtedly be a continuing need for individuals to disappear. . . .



## COUNTY RECORDER METHOD

This method is similar to the Old Newspaper Method, except that you can do your historical research and obtain the birth certificate in the same place — right at the county recorder's office! Go to the files open to the public (photo copies of actual documents in bound volumes, or on microfilm) and check a book that has death certificates for a year in which you were under five. Every thirtieth to fiftieth death will be that of a young child, usually under one year old. The death certificate will list the birthdate, place of birth, race, parents' names, and a host of other interesting facts — all you need to know in order to send for the birth certificate, or request it right there if the child was born in the same county. If all this seems too amazing, you could even look up a copy of the birth certificate you want in the birth files before you order your copy. Just ask a helpful clerk for the appropriate volume. . . .

## THE DELAYED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

A procedure called delayed birth certification allows for the delivery of newly-created, legal birth records. And, what's more, the state vital records offices voluntarily provide official technical assistance: The applicant simply states that he was born at a certain location in the U.S., but that his parents did not register the birth. There are some simple, logical explanations for this circumstance:

1. The parents lived on a farm and were ignorant of the requirement that each birth be "registered."

2. The child was born at home; and, for some reason or another, the parents never got around to notifying county or local officials.

3. The parents, illegal aliens working in the U.S., were afraid that registration of the birth would mean their own deportation.

4. The parents were ignorant of the law that allows all persons born in this country to become citizens automatically.

5. The child was born in the U.S. but was moved back to Mexico, where the parents registered him so he would qualify to attend Mexican schools.

The substantiation of such "unregistered" births is not difficult. Most states regard an affidavit signed by a friend, relative or minister as "evidence." Other acceptable proof of birth includes a baptismal certificate, notations in a family Bible, a church census, and sometimes even a simple affidavit stating only that such documents exist!

Many vital statistics offices are somewhat sympathetic about granting this bureaucratic leeway. There are many legitimate cases in which poor Mexican parents have moved their American-born children back across the border, according to Joe F. Staley, director of the Immigration Service's San Antonio district. Thus, these children, who by virtue of their birthplace were automatically U.S. citizens, are now adults in Mexico, with few, if any, documents to substantiate their claims.



However, there are also many illegal aliens who became instant American citizens by virtue of their cash investments rather than their birthplaces. The delayed certification of birth is apparently too tempting a business opportunity for many enterprising individuals to ignore.

Consider the illegal activities of Oscar Elias Malca Valdivia. His expertise in the field of international bureaucracy allowed him to

charge each Mexican client from \$800 to \$1,400 for a delayed birth certificate, which Malca bought with only a little ingenuity and \$5, plus postage. His maneuvers may have seemed miraculous to his little flock of aliens seeking peace — and prosperity — on the other side, but his methods were simple and accurate. According to Jack Brunson of the El Paso Intelligence Center (an interagency group that coordinates border law enforcement procedure): "He had a darned good product."



Malca, who claimed to be an attorney in McAllen, Texas, had each client sign a blank piece of typing paper, *The New York Times* reports. On this "authorized" document, he or an assistant wrote a letter to the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics in Austin, stating that the client had been born in a south Texas town and requested a copy of his birth certificate. Since the client was in reality a Mexican citizen, there would be no birth record on file in the U.S. Thus, officials could not provide a copy of a birth certificate, but they could outline the procedure for filing for a delayed birth record, *The New York Times* explains. Using the bureau's own suggestions of nineteen documents, Malca "created" affidavits, forged signatures and applied official-looking stamps to the "proof of birth." Upon acceptance of the "evidence," the bureau listed the new birth record in its files and mailed a copy of the delayed birth certificate to Malca's client.

Malca's Rio Grande Baptismal Ceremonies were so effective that he assisted as estimated 800 illegal aliens in their emergence as new citizens in the land of opportunity. In fact, before he was apprehended by U.S. Immigration agents in May, 1975, he had developed "the paper tools of a multimillion-dollar fraud business," according to *The New York Times*. If greed had not made him "a little sloppy," he probably would not have been caught, Brunson says. (After operating successfully in Monterrey, Mexico, for some time, Malca obtained a "quickie marriage" in order to qualify for resident alien status and benefit from the faster Post Office and state records services.)

Although a 13-year prison term has curtailed Malca's personal paper crusade, many of his followers are already carrying on his work, using his ideas and techniques. Naturally, this worries the U.S. Immigration and Naturaliza-

tion Service. According to one spokesman, it is difficult to discover an alien once he obtains an authorized birth certificate, which can quickly breed a wallet-full of valid ID.

## CLOSING THE BACK DOOR

Since the concept of an allegedly "fraud-proof" national ID card has been rejected, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service is not having much luck in halting the sale of fake identification documents. In fact, this black market paper drive is really gaining momentum — due to the increased sophistication of printing and photocopying techniques as well as the fast-developing knowledge of the mysterious workings of the bureaucracy. Thus, many resourceful illegal aliens — who usually enter the U.S. without any ID at all — can quickly accumulate birth certificates, resident alien or "green" cards, driver's licenses and Social Security cards.

Despite federal concentration and effort, the problem is growing. The main reason is that the border ID racket is a lucrative business, adhering to the law of supply and demand. Therefore, opportunists are going to take risks in expectation of big profits. In illustration, the El Paso Intelligence Center is collecting information for its files on thousands of suspected vendors and suppliers of phony documents, *The New York Times* reports. The center also maintains data on a few thousand Americans and Mexicans who have acted as (1) supposed notaries, signing and certifying bogus documents, or (2) "midwives," volunteering false testimony about clients' "birthplaces."

Also, the El Paso division investigates counterfeit immigration cards to determine their sources. The cards are usually made in Mexico, where regulations are not so strictly enforced, and then smuggled into the United States for sale in the larger cities, like Los Angeles, explains Jack W. Brunson, supervisor of the El Paso document section. Often, smugglers of illegal aliens collect real "green cards" and continue to "rent" them for short periods of time for a nominal border-crossing fee of several hundred dollars.

Federal officials want to make U.S. entrance requirements stricter by tightening up document specifications and upgrading fraudulent ID study centers. However, such efforts could prove futile; higher standards might only increase the price (and profit) of false documents and make them a "little tougher" to obtain, says Leonel J. Castillo, commissioner of Immigration. And inefficient or uncooperative state agencies are not making that task any

easier. As Joesh Sureck, district director of the Immigration Service in Los Angeles, explains: "While we're trying to close the front door along the border, many states are keeping the back door wide open!"



## UPDATED INFORMATION ON BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Since we published the original version of this book in 1971, there have been several developments affecting the obtaining of certified copies of birth certificates. We feel you should know about them.

Up to the present, birth and death records have been completely separate documents. Even today they are seldom cross-referenced (that is, a birth certificate stamped "deceased" once a death is recorded). They have been made in different places and filed in different places.

In California, a program has been under way since January, 1978, to cross-reference birth and death records, beginning with the most current and going back in time as funds permit. Los Angeles County has had a haphazard effort for some time, but it affected only those births and deaths that occurred in the county. We believe it will still be several years (if then) before the job is complete. And we also believe that proper research will still produce useful documents.

Sometime in early 1980, the National Center for Health Statistics intends to start a national death index computer to aid in "medical research follow-up." The index will include name, maiden name, and Social Security number of a deceased individual, in addition to the death data already maintained. Access to the index will supposedly be limited only to medical researchers and state registrars. We feel their basic purpose, however, is to effect the complete cross-referencing of U.S. birth and death records, even though their initial efforts may be limited to current births and deaths only.

So far there has been little computerization of birth and death records, but we must assume this will become an eventual reality. Frankly, because the records are so massive, we would wonder what might justify the huge expense necessary to computerize the records in preparation for cross-referencing.

At present we know of no efforts *between* the various states to cross-reference birth and death records. A person who obtained the birth certificate of someone who was born in one state but who died in another state could assure himself of virtual undetectability.

Some states have made it impossible to browse through copies of vital records at county offices. New Hampshire, Maine and Washington have declared such records "confidential." There is no state law in Washington, however, that prevents a person from obtaining someone else's birth certificate.

New York has established statutory limitations governing access to vital records: "Under no circumstances should copies of birth records be issued to anyone but the individual named on the certificate or his legal guardian. Copies of death records may be issued only to those with judicial or other proper purposes. Commercial uses or idle curiosity do not qualify as proper purposes." We are further informed by the State of New York that the federal Freedom of Information Act does not permit free access to vital records by the public.

In 1975, Nevada passed a law that outlawed the possession, sale or transfer of any document "for the purpose of establishing a false status, occupation, membership, license or *identity* for himself or any other person." Sale or transfer is a felony punishable by a fine and imprisonment. Possession is a misdemeanor. To the best of our knowledge, Nevada is the only state with such strict laws attempting to control alternate identity. The same law also makes it "unlawful for any person to obtain or possess the birth certificate of another for the purpose of establishing a false identity for himself or any other person."

There are undoubtedly many other states which are ostensibly "closed" to public viewing; but even in those states, certain persons can almost always gain access. Attorneys and private investigators never seem to have problems viewing "public records." Even if you're not an investigator or an attorney, you might be a "Roots" enthusiast looking into your family tree, a graduate medical student seeking rare causes of death in a particular county over the last thirty years, or an assistant to an attorney or investigator seeking heirs to a lost fortune which has just recently been found. If you appear reasonable, look honest, and have a believable story, many closed doors will open, even those of the County Clerk. . . .

To be sure, the feds would like to see all the doors to alternate identity closed; and they will likely pursue the objective of total national cross-referencing. But even if this were to be

achieved, we can still see several possible loopholes for future Paper Trippers.

1. There would be a time delay loophole in the birth/death matching. Updating would occur probably only once per month, which would allow a clever Tripper time enough to obtain the birth certificate of a recently-deceased person. A child's birth certificate could also be obtained for use by a future Tripper.

2. Birth/death matching would have no impact on the obtaining of birth certificates of living persons. Such a form of paper tripping shouldn't seem too impossible, considering the fact that many people share the same names anyway.



3. If control of birth and death documents really became so complete that Trippers could no longer easily obtain useable birth certificates (not marked or stamped "deceased"), the Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification foresees a return to the art of counterfeiting. And don't laugh! With such modern developments as the Xerox 6500 Color Copier and the photographic capabilities of most commercial art and reproduction companies, there are absolutely no existing birth documents immune from accurate counterfeiting. Any raised seal can also be reproduced and applied to an infinite number of documents.

4. Completely outside considerations of birth and death cross-referencing is the application for and obtaining of "Delayed Certificates of Birth," as described earlier. This avenue will remain open and may have to become more heavily traveled should Big Brother's bureaucrats make a dead-end of "dead" birth certificates.

5. Finally, there are the completely unlimited possibilities of using aliases and/or the use of legal name changes, as outlined in *THE PAPER*

*TRIP II*. Here the freedom of the Common Law that permits changes of name will continue to aid those in need of new identity. *THE PAPER TRIP II* further demonstrates how this ancient individual right can still be exercised without Big Brother's becoming any the wiser, too. *THE PAPER TRIP II* is available from Eden Press for only **\$19.95**

As long as it remains possible, let the government do it for you! They have to believe their own paper, and always will, too!!

**HANDY HINT:** A good general guide for determining where to send for birth certificates is, *WHERE TO WRITE FOR BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS*, available from Eden Press for **\$7.95**

*I would to God thou and I knew  
where a commodity of good names  
were to be bought.*

—Shakespeare  
(HENRY IV, Pt. I)

## V. SOCIAL SECURITY'S "TICKET TO RIDE"

### SSN APPLICATION

Once you have the birth certificate you need, you can apply for a Social Security card. Be prepared to supply some specific information: the name to be used in work or business; full name given at birth; place of birth; mother's full name at birth; father's full name; date of your birth; age; sex; color or race; mailing address; date of application; telephone number; and signature. Unless you are receiving benefits, this is the extent of your file.

But that's not all. . . . The government is now making it more difficult to get a Social Security card. According to recent legislation, all applicants — regardless of age — must submit "documentary evidence (birth or baptismal certificates, driver's licenses or other supportive documents) of their age, identity and citizenship or alien status," says a Social Security Administration spokesman. A person applying for a duplicate card is also required to submit evidence of identity.

Persons age 18 and older, who are applying for a SSN for the first time, must appear at the Social Security office in person. The new rules require adults to undergo an "in-depth" interview to make sure they have not previously held a Social Security number — and that they are not obtaining a new number on behalf of someone else. An individual in search of a new

SSN should not be frightened by this ominous requirement, however, as the personal research of an anonymous letter writer demonstrates. . . .

"Here's the real story of the Social Security Administrator's 'in-depth' interview: Stop by your local Social Security office during the first week of the month or during the lunch hour. Things are so hectic at this time that it is easier for Paper Trippers to just 'slip through.' Request an application for an SSN at the reception desk. The receptionist will ask if you have your proof of age and identity in your possession. If you do, she (or he) will provide you with an application to fill out on the spot.

"After returning the application to the receptionists, she'll ask if this is the first time you have applied for a SSN. If so and if you are under 18, she'll check your ID. If everything appears to be authentic, your card will be issued in four to eight weeks. However, if you're 18 years of age or older, you'll be informed that you must be 'interviewed.' (By the way, your ID won't be checked until the interview.)

"You will then sit in the waiting area for a half an hour to an hour. After that time, an 'interrogator' will call your name and escort you to the 'interviewing' area. This official will then proceed to check your ID. If everything appears to be in order, you'll be informed that you should receive your Social Security card in about four to eight weeks.

"No questions are asked! The entire 'interview' lasts no more than five minutes. The so-called 'in-depth' questioning is a sham. I think it's done only to psych out Paper Trippers. You also have to take into account the fact that their offices are overcrowded with 'clients' who are having difficulties of one kind or another with their benefits. In light of this, Big Brother just doesn't have the time or the manpower to hassle SSN applicants. If you are cool, getting the number is a breeze!"



Applicants who are applying in person and are asked why they haven't had a card before, sometimes tell the inquisitive bureaucrat they've never worked before, have been in college or out of the country since they were 18, or some other imaginative tale. It may really be none of the paper pusher's business, anyway. He still must serve the individual; after all, he's a public servant.

## THE SSN DILEMMA

Why is the Department of Health, Education and Welfare attempting to tighten up procedures for obtaining Social Security numbers? Well . . . although it's not supposed to be, Social Security cards function as "intra-national" passports to jobs, credit cards, driver's licenses, and other stacks of paper which boost people back into society. Previously, individuals could apply for cards by mail. The current card crackdown is aimed at "possible misuse of the Social Security card as an indicator of lawful status in the United States" and other misuses, such as attempted change of identities, the HEW explains. The stricter regulations are also intended to help protect a person's Social Security record and to prevent anyone else from misusing a person's SSN, according to a department spokesman.

However, "prosecution for false application is fairly rare; and we have no way of knowing

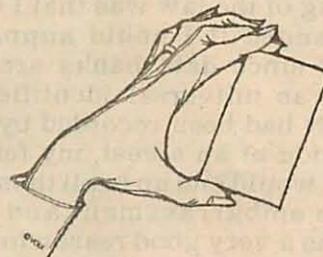
how many of the 257 million Social Security cards in the country are fraudulent," according to Lee Christensen, director for external affairs for the Social Security office in Seattle. "The odds are pretty good" that a person with a certified birth certificate could obtain a Social Security card under a new name, despite increased precautions taken by the Social Security Administration in recent years, he says.

Also, duplicate cards can be a result of bureaucratic confusion and inefficiency. The Social Security Administration does make mistakes, as the following section demonstrates.

## THE FEDERAL NUMBERS GAME

She has his number . . . but it's the Social Security Administration that's embarrassed. When filling out an insurance form, Duane Wilkins, 18, discovered that she had something in common with her dentist, Dr. Stephen M. Brewster, 62: their Social Security number — 363-14-9879, according to a recent *Los Angeles Times* story.

Of course, the Social Security Administration was convinced that such classic bureaucratic bungling was impossible. First of all, an agency spokesman pointed out the fact that all numbers are computer-screened at the administration's data-processing center in Baltimore; and we all know that computers don't lie. Secondly, the number in question is issued from a Midwestern area. Ms. Wilkins is from Camarillo, CA. The dentist, who received his card in Michigan in the 1930's, moved to Ventura County 28 years ago. However, when faced with physical evidence of the awful truth, the Social Security Administration had to admit its error — although the agency cannot figure out how it happened.



Ms. Wilkins suggests the trouble may have started when she lost her card about three years ago and received a new one. She says she cannot recall whether the numbers on the cards are the same. Brewster's supporting theory is that his number may have been reissued: During World

War II, when he was a first lieutenant in the Army, an Army captain with the same name was killed in North Africa. Meanwhile, the Social Security Administration is trying to unravel this mysterious tangle. There are an estimated 150 million people covered by Social Security, which leads to speculation about the odds in this gigantic numbers game.

## LEGAL SSN CHANGE

The Social Security Act (P.L. 74-271) was originated in 1935. It imposes taxes to finance a program of retirement and survivor benefits. In 1936, the concept of the Social Security number appeared in a Bureau of Internal Revenue regulation calling for an "account number" for each employee. Each employee was required to report his identifying number (assigned by the Postmaster General or the Social Security Board) to his employer. The employer, in turn, was directed to maintain records of the name and number of each employee and to enter employee account numbers on all required returns. This is rather well-known information. . . .

However, one of this law's provisions is not so well-publicized. According to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's publication, *Records, Computers and the Rights of Citizens*, the regulation provided that: "Any employee may have his account number changed at any time by applying to the Social Security Board and showing good reasons for a change. With that exception, only one account number will be assigned to an employee."

One Paper Tripper has used this law to his advantage. He explains: "Armed with this information, I requested that a new Social Security number be assigned to me. The manager at the SSN office had never heard of someone being assigned a new number: a new name, yes — but a new number, no. I explained that my understanding of the law was that I could have my SSN changed if I could supply 'a good reason.' And since data banks are currently using SSN's as universal identifiers . . . and since my SSN had been recorded by the police on the occasion of an arrest, my fear that my arrest record would end up in all those data files (causing me embarrassment and economic hardship) was a very good reason for a change. (Another plausible reason for requesting a new SSN would be reasonable suspicion that someone else had 'appropriated' your name and number.)

"The Social Security official and I composed a letter to his superiors. Several months later, I received a card with a new number! Since I've

been working under my old number for the past year without any inquiries from the SS, I suspect that I now may have two numbers! Now, if they're crediting both accounts. . . ."

Another interesting aspect of Social Security history is that SSN "manipulation" — for noncriminal purposes — does not appear to get a person into deep legal trouble. The Social Security Administration is aware that many persons obtain more than one SSN, according to LaVerne Saxbury, head of the San Jose, CA, Social Security Office. This practice may be a misdemeanor, she adds.

This reason for this attitude is that Social Security was started in the 1930's, during a time of great labor strife, according to the *San Jose Mercury* newspaper. Pressure from the Mine Workers and the Steelworkers, who were afraid the SSN would be used by mine and mill owners to blacklist pro-union men, had its effect on Roosevelt's "New Deal" administration. In an attempt to conciliate labor interests, the government was careful to avoid perjury penalties for anyone who might get a new card with each change of work, the paper explains.

## THE MASTER KEY

The use of Social Security numbers to systematize recordkeeping is "a hot issue symbolically and politically," according to Ronald Plessner, who was general counsel to the federal Privacy Protection Study Commission. For many individuals, the SSN represents the dehumanization resulting from the "needs" of government and private data junkies. Although public outcry forced Uncle Sam to impose some restrictions, government agencies use the SSN for many "non-tax" purposes. And since no real regulations exist on its use in the private sector, the SSN has become — even without the dreadful official sanction — the national identification number for a country connected by computerized information systems.

The SSN is the master key, unlocking all the doors to diverse sources of data on an individual. Some of the most active picklocks and SSN collectors are: the IRS (which has required the number on all tax returns since 1961), state tax franchise boards, high schools and colleges, libraries, credit-card companies, retirement funds other than Social Security, the police and other law enforcement agencies, county welfare departments and all related social-service agencies, departments of motor vehicles in 33 states, Blue Cross and other health and life insurers, stock brokerages, banks and other financial institutions, the Civil Service Commission, the Federal Aviation Agency, the

Veterans Administration and the Department of Defense (dog tags now carry your SSN), a person's employers (past and present), and, of course, the Social Security Administration itself. And, in case you "forgot" your number, you can easily refresh your memory by checking your library card, voter-registration records, tax-form address sticker or employee identification card, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

The number appears to be universally available. However, there has been some recent — if lukewarm — legislation concerning the use of the SSN: The Privacy Act of 1974 imposed a moratorium on new uses of the SSN by federal, state and local government agencies, unless specifically authorized by law. The new regulation contains a broad "grandfather" clause that sanctions any government use started before Jan. 1, 1975, the *Times* reports.

Also, the Tax Reform Act of 1976 specifically gave state and local tax, motor vehicle and welfare agencies approval to use the number. Twenty-eight states, the District of Columbia and American Samoa now use the SSN as their driver's license number or in their driver's files. Virginia uses the number to register voters; and West Virginia puts it on hunting and fishing licenses.

Forced awareness of this SSN problem has prompted a Congressional investigation of the Social Security Administration's "filing system." The findings are not reassuring; the Social Security Administration is not exactly "burglar-proof." According to the General Accounting Office, design and management problems are promoting laxness and weakness which potentially could result in loss, destruction, abuse or misuse of data. This data (depending on the specific program) includes a person's earnings, real estate holdings, marital status, children, and medical history, including drug and alcohol use. The Social Security Administration maintains this information on more than 170 million Americans with a computer system linking more than 1,300 agency offices.

According to the GAO report, so-called security safeguards are unstable. For example, one employee (who had computer-access) became a private SSN entrepreneur. The clever employee located the names and Social Security numbers of deceased individuals; typed out the information on cards stolen from the office; and sold them for a tidy profit to illegal aliens and persons who wanted new identities. He took advantage of the main weakness of the system: Individual employees can gain access to data — and even create new data — without being required by the computer to identify them-

selves. Furthermore, the computer network was designed so that beneficiary files can be created as well as checked by most of the 3,700 terminals in a variety of federal, state and private insurance offices, according to *The Register* (Orange County, CA).

Also, local agencies use the SSN to link up with federal programs and other "affiliated" interests. For example, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services does not use the SSN as an account number; but this "identifier" is included on every application for assistance. The number becomes a part of the main file as well as a part of the individual program (i.e., MediCal, Food Stamps, Aid to Families With Dependent Children), the *Los Angeles Times* reports. The information is then available to "the welfare client; the client's representatives; federal, state and local auditors checking on food-stamp cases; internal auditors; the district attorney while investigating fraud or child-support cases; the FBI seeking information related to public social services; and the sheriff, who may have to go to the trouble of getting a warrant," according to a *Los Angeles Times* article by Paul Chitlik ("Anyone Who Wants It Has Got Your Number").

Moreover, the helpful SSN allows the Internal Revenue Service to compute a lot more about a citizen than just the amount of taxes he owes. The IRS can use the number to find out information about a person's address, marital status, number and names of children and other dependents, gross income, medical expenses, political and charitable contributions, union affiliations, savings (implied by interest received), and the amounts of other income and deductions.

Private firms also favor the use of the SSN. Employers, insurance companies, financial institutions, doctors, and medical plans maintain detailed — and sometimes very subjective — data tagged and filed with the ubiquitous Social Security number. As Phil Chitlik concludes. . . .

*Obviously, a Social Security number poses no danger in itself. It functions only as a key to information. The information is then held under this key by dozens of institutions, both private and public. If all the information stored by means of this number were gathered — a possibility becoming more and more real — a complete personal history and personality profile could be worked up. No need to wait for the "Giant Computer": There would be nothing about you — your likes and dislikes, goals and desires, intelligence and abilities, mental health, preferred reading, eye color and vision,*

religion and political beliefs, work and leisure routines, debts and duties, honors and punishments, vacations and escapes, diet, dress, income, education, lovers and/or spouse or ex-spouse, children, bad debts and, more likely than not, thumbprint — little that couldn't be discovered by using that magical nine-digit number.

## NATIONAL DEATH INDEX

A computerized National Death Index (NDI) is scheduled to begin operations in 1980 or 1981, according to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). This system will store detailed information about each of the two million people who die every year in the U.S. The data will include: the decedent's name, maiden name or father's surname, age at death, race, sex, marital status, Social Security number, date of birth, state of birth, state of residence, place of death, date of death, death certificate number, and state file number. The objective is to centralize information "to aid medical researchers in mainly epidemiological studies or medical and health studies," says Dr. Drusilla Burnham of NCHS' Mortality Statistics Branch.

To obtain data on an individual, a researcher would have to supply at least the decedent's name, father's surname, date of birth and/or SSN. Then the researcher would receive verification of whether or not his information corresponded with the NDI's data, the correct state of death, and the death certificate number. He would not receive a computer printout of other personal details. However, with the information in his possession he would be able to send for the actual death certificate necessary for his survey or study.

This system is likely to stir up some controversy, especially with the use of the SSN. Dr. Burnham explains that "the SSN has always been on the death record; and we actually will not be releasing names or any kind of identifying information, except for death certificate numbers." The NCHS promises "fairly stringent" safeguards.

Yet, many citizens are bound to take exception to more computerized intrusions into their privacy, according to *Computerworld* magazine. Currently, there hasn't been much publicity about the National Death Index. Even though more than 40 states are ready to participate, many people are not yet aware of plans for its implementation. Someday citizens may discover that the National Death Index is linked to a National Birth Index . . . and that we can all

become neatly computerized, filed and cross-referenced from cradle to grave — a pathetic paper monument to real lives.

## THE ULTIMATE NUMBER

Many people feel that The Individual's number is up — that unique personality will smother under massive layers of computer codes and tapes. This not-unwarranted defeatist attitude is not lessened by predictions of the implementation of national (and international) electronic money transfer systems. Visions of an ominous "world credit card" haunt many privacy-seekers.

However, not all experts are convinced that the current Social Security number will become the ultimate ID number for such cards. For example, Jim McKeever (of *McKeever's Investment & Survival Letter*) says that the SSN will not be utilized for this purpose for three major reasons:

1. There are vast numbers of people in the U.S. who have the same Social Security number as someone else.
2. There are many individuals who have multiple Social Security numbers.
3. The SSN does not have a "self-checked digit." (This is usually a single digit at the end of a number which is determined by formula to insure that the number has been entered into the computer correctly.)

McKeever predicts a "renumbering" of the population. Instead of using the SSN as is, he hypothesizes that the SSN possibly could be augmented with a three-digit addition on the front. This would function in a "world" system as a country or national identification number. A self-checking digit could be added at the end of the SSN, creating a 12- or 13-digit ID number.

However, some individuals wonder why IBM cards have nine number spaces down the side, instead of ten or more. Obviously, some computer experts must figure that the SSN (with its "convenient" nine digits) will become the universal personal identifier someday. Even though the SSN is not supposed to be used for purposes of identification, it is used in this way by virtually every bank and government agency. One of our readers suggests a two-point attack on this demeaning bureaucratic practice:

1. Always recite a different number when you are asked for your SSN, as you are seldom requested to produce the card itself.
2. As often as feasible, drop by the local Social Security office and apply for a new card

under another name, using Paper Trip methods for alternate ID and birth certificates. You can never tell what your new SSN's might be good for.



## COMPUTER CONFUSION

The discontinued use of the SSN as a universal identifier could cause computerized record systems to suffer a real "identity crisis." Since the Privacy Act says that individuals are not required to provide their specialized ID numbers, computer systems must develop a cross-reference table based on personal characteristics, according to *Computerworld* magazine. This is a difficult and costly process for one automated system. But the task becomes extremely complex and confusing when one considers the problem of transference of information (especially corrections) between systems. The dilemma is how to identify the same individual in more than one record system — without the use of an identifier like the SSN?

Cross-reference tables could utilize a combination of personal characteristics, such as name, date and place of birth, parentage, etc., according to suggestions from the Office of Management and Budget. This would be a relatively simple procedure for manual systems.

However, computers would find the process complicated and cumbersome, requiring a sophisticated reworking of the system. The main difficulty is that the data (especially names) is not always precise. "Individuals will often use shortened forms of their name so that 'Bill Jones,' 'William Jones,' and 'William Jones Jr.' may, in fact, refer to the same individual," explains Samuel T. Schaen, co-author of *THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974: A REFERENCE MANUAL*.

"Likewise, a person's birthplace may also be subject to the multi-name phenomenon," Schaen adds. "For example, 'Richmond,' 'Staten

Island,' and 'New York' are all legitimate birthplace descriptions for individuals born on that borough/island which is part of New York City." Thus, "with the exception of statistical records, each individual must have a unique identifier for that system to function" or "there can be no guarantee that information will be recorded accurately or be assigned to the proper individual."

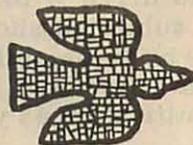
## PIOUS MOTIVES

*Give us day by day our Real Taxed  
Substantial Money-bought Bread; deliver  
from the Holy Ghost whatever cannot be  
Taxed; for all is Debts & Taxes between  
Caesar & us & one another.*

—William Blake

An alternative to obtaining a "new" SSN is to drop out of Social Security altogether via the ministry route; Since the Social Security number is essentially a tax concept, the individual's search for reasons and methods will flow along this line. (Yes, Virginia, Social Security is a tax, not insurance. If it were insurance, why is the fund now going "broke"?)

One approach to applying this information successfully is to "become" a clergyman who has taken a vow of poverty. Although many taxpayers feel that the IRS has forced all of us to take such a vow involuntarily, the government does provide special SS exemptions for those who oppose Social Security on the basis of religious principles. Thus, such "conscientious objectors" can file IRS Form 4361, stating that they are opposed to receiving Social Security benefits based on their service as clergymen. (Even though they technically may be employees, clergymen usually report their earnings as if they were self-employed.)



This concept also allows a new angle for people who want to obtain Social Security numbers. For example, this option provides a good excuse when applying for a Social Security card "late in life." The individual can claim that he had previously been a member of a religious order which strictly adhered to a vow of poverty. Obviously, this pious person was never covered by Social Security; and, therefore, has had pure — rather than suspicious — motives for remaining so long untouched by the worldly SS bureaucratic filing system.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

When applying for Social Security benefits, remember . . . all a person must do is submit a birth certificate and a Social Security card. A driver's license, etc., is not required for further identification. Therefore, an individual should not be paranoid if, for example, she is a woman who lied about her age on her license. According to a letter from a Social Security employee in the syndicated column "Dear Abby," the federal Privacy Act of 1974 prohibits the Social

Security office from providing a person's date of birth to the state DMV. "Under the act, her date of birth and other information about her cannot be released to anyone — including her husband," the employee explains. "If she doesn't want her SS checks sent to her home, she can either rent a Post Office box or have her checks deposited directly in her bank account. Tell her not to be so afraid to discuss her problem with the people at her Social Security office. *We've heard everything.*" Imaginative Trippers, take note!

# VI. DRIVER'S LICENSES: STEERING CLEAR OF OBSTACLES

## A BASIC REQUIREMENT

The driver's license not only keeps mobile America on the road but also provides the starting signal for much of the paper traffic inching its way past bureaucratic roadblocks. The driver's license is an essential form of identification in the United States. It seems almost mandatory for financial transactions. The driver's license has become the "national consumer ID." As one merchant explains, "Most people travel by automobile; and it is against the law to drive without a driver's license . . . and in suburban shopping centers they have to arrive by automobile. Most people guard their driver's licenses jealously. It's about as good identification as you can get."

In fact, Americans have become so conditioned to regarding the driver's license as the essential ID that many clerks and bank tellers are adamant about the license requirement. According to a recent Associated Press story, a person who had been living abroad returned to Tennessee, where he had a bank account but not a driver's license. At this bank, he produced his passport as ID. The teller said, "I'm sorry, sir, but this won't do. I'll still need to see your driver's license."

This paper "proof" is trusted by security conscious businesses and agencies because of

three elements: the photograph, the signature, and the descriptive data. However, this popular form of identification is not foolproof. The card's vulnerability to creative editing varies from state to state: The material on which driver's licenses are printed is not standardized. Licenses printed on ordinary paper are "very bad, because they're easily copied. Anyone can type or scratch anything on it," says Jerry Lazier of the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

In an effort to end alterations and forgeries, several states issue plastic-coated cards or cards embossed or perforated with the official state seal, according to *The National Notary*. "Safety optic beading" (used by both California and Colorado) complicates and, thus, helps prevent license-tampering. With this procedure, state seals are imprinted in a laminated surface. Any alteration would create a dark outline around the altered area when viewed under a flashlight beam or other illumination device.

A valid license should have a clear format, according to Lt. J. Riker of the Los Angeles Police Department Bunco-Forgery Division. "Lines in the descriptive area should meet. They should be straight lines without breaks. Any unrelated marks or lines may indicate a bogus license," he says.

Since a bad decision on an altered ID can prove costly to businessmen, some ingenious companies — being very profit-oriented themselves — have developed devices to detect fraudulent driver's licenses. The DETECTOR, for example, is advertised as a "fool-proof device" which can be used to check the colored California driver's license and non-driver ID card. These cards have an alteration-proof lamination on the front surface which contains light-reflective beads that are invisible to the naked eye. Available from DEK/ELECTRO (173 Freedom Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801), this machine allows a clerk or bank teller to insert the license in a slot, press a button, and view the word "California" and the State Seal, repeated many times across the face of the card. Any attempted erasure, cutting, etc., will have disturbed the lamination and be visible through the unit.



## AGE LIMITS

One of the main functions of a driver's license is to verify the cardholder's age — to verify that the individual is "of legal age" to participate in certain restricted activities. The problem is that the states cannot reach a national consensus on one age which would legally denote adulthood and allow a person to drink, drive, serve on a jury, sign a contract, etc.

Thus, although the Twenty-sixth Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 throughout the country, driving privileges are not so standardized. A driver's license can be obtained at the age of 16 in: Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, Alabama, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Most other states allow drivers to obtain a license at age 16; however, when under 18 years of age, parental permission is necessary. There are some exceptions (most of which require parental consent):

AGE	STATE
14	Kansas
14 (for some restricted licenses)	California Nevada North Dakota Oregon
15	Hawaii Louisiana Maine Mississippi New Mexico
16½	Massachusetts
17	New Jersey
18	New Hampshire Texas Virginia

Driver education courses can lower the driving age to 15 in Montana, 15½ in California and 16 in Virginia. In most states, you can get a learner's permit about three months to a year before the legal driving age.

Prosecution by the state for making a false application for a driver's license is a fairly rare occurrence, according to officials. Prosecutions are more apt to be against under-age persons trying to establish that they are of legal drinking age, rather than against someone who is trying to establish a new identity. "Unfortunately, it's relatively easy to get away with it," says Don Morehead, assistant administrator for driver records in the Washington State Licensing Department.

The issue may become more visible as more states raise the legal drinking age. The Vietnam era's slogan of "old enough to fight, old enough to be an adult" resulted in 18 states dropping the legal drinking age to 18. However, in response to rising teenage alcoholism and increasing drunk-driving accidents, six states have decided to reverse their opinions. The states which have recently raised the drinking age are: Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Iowa and Massachusetts. According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse, the current drinking ages in the fifty states and the District of Columbia are:

### AGE 21:

Arkansas	California
Indiana	Kentucky
Utah	Michigan
Missouri	Nevada
New Mexico	Washington
North Dakota	Oklahoma
Oregon	Pennsylvania

### AGE 21 (with limited beer and wine sales to those under 21):

Colorado	Illinois
Kansas	Maryland
Mississippi	North Carolina
South Carolina	Ohio
South Dakota	Virginia
District of Columbia	

### AGE 20:

Delaware	Massachusetts	Maine
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### AGE 19:

Alabama	Alaska
Arizona	Idaho
Iowa	Minnesota
Montana	Nebraska
Wyoming	

### AGE 18:

Connecticut	Florida
Georgia	Hawaii
Louisiana	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New York
Rhode Island	Tennessee
Texas	Vermont
West Virginia	Wisconsin

## BASIC INFORMATION

What do you do if you find that circumstances necessitate getting a new driver's license? Well, each state has its own administration for issuing licenses, under such titles as "Department of Motor Vehicles," "Transportation," or "Public Safety," etc. Each state has its own requirements for eligibility. Therefore, consult the appropriate laws. Proof of age for minors is usually needed; a birth certificate always works. Some applicants have no ID, and simply tell the clerk that they've lost their wallet or have never had a license before. Be sure to check your particular state's requirements and make sure you have all the necessary paper(s) and answers before applying. (For more detailed information on this subject, check out *THE PAPER TRIP II*. It provides up-to-date data on license number codes and validations, the SOUNDEX System, duplicate licenses, the National Driver Register, and much more.)

An excellent book which provides complete information on each state's driver's license, including color reproductions of samples, is the *DRIVER'S LICENSE GUIDE*, which can be purchased by mail for \$17.45 from: Driver's License Guide Co., 1492 Oddstad Drive, Redwood City, CA 94063. This company sells to "Law Enforcement" people only, so be advised. The book is used as a basic tool by law enforce-

ment and by businessmen in "combatting criminal deception." To quote its introduction, "increased mobility, an economy styled on the use of checks and credit cards, and growth in fraud-related crimes, demand improved control." A word to the wise is sufficient. Always get your government ID from the government itself. Give them the paper they want, and you will get the paper you want.

Another valuable book is *SAVE YOUR LICENSE!* This is a basic "Driver's Survival Guide," detailing hundreds of tricks and inside facts about speeding — and getting away with it. The book presents a lot of practical advice on police cars, scanners, CB's, radar, tickets and insurance problems.

## RECORD SEARCH

An innovative company called RECORD SEARCH utilizes the computer network for insurance companies' "research" into motor vehicle reports (MVR's) to acquaint interested individuals with the data in their files. This information could prove quite useful — since such reports can limit personal freedom by affecting the individual's ability to obtain auto insurance or even a driver's license. If you are anxious to do a little research of your own into some of the ways insurance companies invade your privacy, write to Record Search, 444 Sherman, #214, Denver, CO 80203 for information and prices.

## INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

This is a good-looking ID card that can be obtained merely by having a valid driver's license (any state), two passport size photos, and paying \$5 at an office of the A.A.A. It's valid for one year; and applicants must be 18 or older. No driving test is required. At home it makes an excellent second or third piece of ID.

## CITY OR STATE ID CARDS

These handy cards can be obtained from a variety of government offices, usually for a fee of \$2 or \$3. Police stations, welfare offices, and motor vehicle departments are the most common sources of issue. All you need is some kind of "proof" of who you are; a birth certificate alone is enough to do the job. A SS number is sometimes requested, and an application blank designed for you to provide all your personal characteristics (birth date, sex, height, weight,

color of hair, eyes, etc.) has to be filled out. There are thousands of issuing agencies across the country, so obtaining one will be no problem. Sometimes a photo is taken and affixed to the card. This is first class ID, and is used by many people who do not have driver's licenses as their basic ID. The waiting period is usually only a matter of a few days, if that.

Once you have received your birth certificate and SS card, this is an excellent card to obtain, even if you are also going to get a driver's license. Quite often a month or so is required to receive a permanent driver's license; and most localities will not accept a temporary license as ID. The government ID card is thus a useful one to possess. Don't overlook it.

When building an alternate identity, it's sometimes easier to get a state-issued ID card before trying to obtain a driver's license. As one Tripper reports: "For a driver's license, I had to take another person along who had a license; and the driving inspector wanted to see his license. For the ID card, there was none of this hassle; and I was not asked any questions about



why I had never had a license before. Also, while taking the driving test, the bureaucrats have time to check the computer to see if someone else has had the same name and birthdate and has a license. If some other Paper Tripper has used that name already, you could be in big trouble. It's best to apply for the ID card; and go for the license later after receiving the card — if one has the time. Besides, this will give you two pieces of ID — as you don't have to surrender the ID card when applying for the license (at least in California)."

## VII. POSTPONE PASSPORT PROBLEMS

### FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.*

—Mark Twain

A passport is a paradoxical document: It is a ticket to global freedom, providing convenience and protection. Yet, it is also a paper monitoring device, allowing for investigation and control of the individual. Therefore, it is vital for a privacy-seeker to understand exactly how this document functions as a national and an international identifier. Armed with this knowledge, a free-spirited person can expertly wield his passport like a shield against any 1984-style encroachments into his lifestyle.

For this purpose, a good descriptive pamphlet on passports is *YOU AND YOUR PASSPORT*, available (for free) from the Passport

Office, Department of State, Washington, D.C. All of the necessary specifics, however, can be found on the application itself. Passport applications can be picked up at Post Offices, federal courts, state courts of records, or at one of the passport agencies located in the following cities: Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

Also, a truly invaluable explanation and discussion of passports is found in Douglas R. Casey's *INTERNATIONAL INVESTING*, \$9.95 from Eden Press). Casey's expertise can help the freedom-seeking Paper Tripper overcome any latent passport-phobia. The book outlines ways to *legally* obtain U.S. diplomatic passports, foreign passports (from twenty different countries!), and other official and non-official documents. The book even provides sound business and financial advice as well as relocation strategy. Citizens of the World, take note!

## PASSPORT PROCEDURE

Basically, with a valid U.S. birth certificate (to prove citizenship), one good physical ID (for personal identification), \$42 and two clear, full-face photographs, you can get a U.S. passport, valid for 10 years. Here is a list of documents which are acceptable as proof of identity:

1. Previous U.S. passport,
2. A certificate of naturalization or of derivative citizenship.
3. Driver's license,
4. Government ID card or pass (federal, state or local).

Usually, a passport agent will *not* initiate a verification procedure if there are no so-called "symptoms of fraud." "We don't have the ability to investigate each applicant for a passport," says Bruce Weaver of the State Department's Seattle passport office. "We must accept the documents presented to us to establish identity at face value. . . . The birth document is the key. Other documents become more available once that is obtained."

Most Trippers bypass the eagle-eyed Passport Office employee in favor of the postal clerk, who will likely have more on his mind than questionable passport applications. Yet, a good game player never underestimates his opponent. Some nervousness or hesitation in answering or some uncertainty in signing may arouse the bored bureaucrat's suspicions, according to Douglas Casey. Therefore, proceed with knowledge and caution.



Also, remember that your passport is by far your best ID abroad. It guarantees your re-entry into the United States. Individuals who flee the country without passports and now want to return, sometimes have friends back home provide them with a birth certificate using one of the methods previously described. In this way, they can return from a neighboring country casually as "weekend tourists." Then they obtain other government ID in their new name, and they're on their own.

It's wise to stay away from past associates and family and to construct a "past." Some people even get passports and return to their old foreign haunts, knowing the trip home will no longer be a problem. (For more information on passport methodology, refer to *THE PAPER TRIP II*, \$19.95 from Eden Press.)

## A GRUDGING TESTIMONIAL

For a most informative look into the workings of the Passport Office, their enforcement problems and the varieties of passport fraud, the dedicated Paper Tripper simply *must* obtain a copy of "*The Testimony of Frances G. Knight*," a 42-page report by the former head of the Passport Office before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee in 1972. Send 25¢ to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, Stock Number 5270-01608. If it's unavailable, order a copy through your senator or congressman.

Here's what Mrs. Knight had to say about an adroit applicant: "He makes the application in a name other than his own and submits, as evidence of his citizenship, either a fictitious affidavit of birth or the birth certificate, the baptismal certificate, or the naturalization certificate of another person. When successful, he obtains a passport bearing his own photograph and description, but in a name other than his own. When the applicant is in this country, this is the easiest type of fraud to perpetrate and the most difficult to detect."

## THE CURRENT TREND

For twenty-two years, Frances Knight ruled supreme at the State Department's Passport Office. She was quite vehement in her advocacy of a mandatory national identification card: "It is my personal opinion — and I presume I have the right to express it — that under cover of an overemphasized concern for individual privacy, in contrast to an apparent disregard for individual security and protection, a very small but well-organized and vocal minority has been successful in conjuring up the specter of storm troopers and secret police instigating national registration, fingerprinting, and the issuance of identity cards. Of course, criminals, illegal aliens, tax dodgers and the peripheral groups of small-time crooks and hoods who profit from illegal activities would be against national registration and identity cards. That is to be expected. . ." (from an interview in *U.S. News & World Report*).

Of course, in this country each citizen is entitled to state his — or her — opinion, no

matter how dismal a picture it paints of the American scene. And Mrs. Knight's view is shared by many bureaucrats, some conservatives and reactionaries, who agree that it is inconceivable that an individual might want an alternate passport for "noncriminal" reasons. Conveniently forgetting our Pilgrim Fathers, many of Uncle Sam's most vocal supporters seem to regard "escape" as completely un-American.

However, the Passport Office is now under new management — supplied by career diplomat Loren E. Lawrence. And Lawrence has listened to the cries of public outrage: Not only has he tactfully "unloaded" the office's national ID bandwagon, but he has also halted the agency's development of a machine-readable passport, complete with magnetic strip ID, according to *Privacy Journal*. The strip, like that on the back of a plastic credit card, would have included coded data that could be read and altered when inserted into computer terminals at borders. "The public would not stand for any data encoded on the passport unless it could all be read by the citizen himself," Lawrence says. So now, he recommends the use of a passport that can be read by both an optical scanner and the passport carrier. Yet, this does not eliminate the possibility of unacknowledged monitoring of labeling. . . .

## FUTURE SHOCK?

"It is perhaps a sign of the times that the desire to acquire false identification, and the 'need' to do so, has spread from the ranks of smugglers, mercenaries, and other such international adventurers down to the level of the man in the street," Douglas Casey comments in an article in *Reason* magazine. Without debating the morality of the problem, Casey points out that the number of *detected* passport frauds is rising steadily (with the three types of false documents being (1) forged or altered, (2) stolen, and (3) "alias" passports).

Yet, Casey cautions worried officials that such measures as national ID, mandatory fingerprinting for passports and linkage of birth and death records, might end up being only an exercise in futility: *A rather obvious effect (of such legislation) will be to raise prices, and profits. Although the market for false ID's is "illiquid," with prices varying widely on whatever the market can be made to bear, as of the mid-1970's, \$150 might secure a birth certificate, \$400 a driver's license, and \$2,000 a passport — all minimum figures. A second effect will be to substantially increase the control government has on its citizens — thereby increasing their incentive to commit*

*frauds of the very type it seeks to prevent. Like many official measures, it will be counter-productive even while serving the ulterior motives of its proponents.*

## INTERESTING FACTS

**PROCEDURE** — If you have never held a U.S. passport or you have one that is more than eight years old, you will have to apply in person. Otherwise, you can obtain Form DSP-82 from a passport agency and apply by mail.



**SHARING** — A husband and wife can obtain one joint passport if they plan to travel together. A child under the age of 13 can have his own passport or share one with one or both parents or guardians or an older sibling. The older person can apply on behalf of the child, who does not have to appear in person.

**APPEARANCE** — Although passport photographs must bear a "reasonable likeness" to the applicant, photos of bearded men are usually accepted, whether or not he has a beard when applying. For the ladies, the State Department says that it is "fairly flexible" about the color of a woman applicant's hair.

**TWO PASSPORTS** — The State Department allows a citizen to possess two valid U.S. passports under certain, special circumstances. "For example, Nigeria will not admit anyone whose passport contains a visa for South Africa. Therefore, if an American plans to visit both countries, he or she can obtain one passport for the Nigerian visa and the other for the South African," according to the *New York Times News Service*. Also, a second passport can be issued because some countries take two or three months or more to process a visa application (while holding on to the passport).

**STOLEN PASSPORTS** — A lost or stolen passport usually can be replaced within a working day (sometimes while you wait). If you can provide the passport number and the date of issue, the process can be accelerated.



## FINAL THOUGHT

To complete your collection of government-issued cards, you might keep in mind the following documents. Although they are not technically "ID," they are what might be called "supportive," or supplemental ID. They add

depth and, hence, believability to your basic ID. The first group is usually in certificate form:

Marriage license

Divorce decree

Baptismal certificate (in lieu of birth certificate)

Ministerial license

High school and college diplomas

The above certificates can all be purchased in blank form from a variety of mail order firms, and filled in by yourself to your own specifications. Use at your own discretion.

The second group consists of cards that are very easily obtained from various governmental agencies. Usually only minimal ID is needed. A driver's license or state ID card is more than enough.

Library card

Business license

Solicitor permit

Hunting and fishing licenses (often quite impressive)

# VIII. FIRST CLASS "UNOFFICIAL" ID

## NON-GOVERNMENT ID

"Unofficial" ID from other than federal, state and local governmental sources is a valuable addition to a Tripper's new paper profile. This non-government identification is the perfect finishing touch for a personal work of art, a colorful and imaginative new ID. This non-government ID will lend credibility to all your other identification. In this nation of paper-packrats, the more ID, the better.

Unofficial, physical ID encompasses any type of card which gives a physical description of you, but which is *not* sent from some governmental agency. They can be prepared conveniently at home, using any kind of company, business, professional or school name as the "background" for the card.

The basic card stock can be purchased at a printer's and the different organizational names and titles created by printing, typing, or, if you're good at it, hand lettering. You can also use a sample of a printed company name as it appears in, say, a color magazine. Simply transfer a cut-out of the name onto the card, using rubber cement; the company's logo might also be added. Cover over any rough edges with decorative lines or other designs. Plasticoat the card when finished. Virtually all the "art" work needed can be extracted from magazines.

"Passes" with physical ID descriptions are used increasingly these days by many corporations, particularly those engaged in research or the development of new products. Below the company logo and name, a person might add the title of a "job": Supervisor, District Director,

Lead Man, Inspector, System Analyst, Classified Research, or thousands of others. Check the want ads under "Engineers" for really sophisticated titles.

Underneath the company name, in either of the lower corners, you might place a color photograph of yourself (black and white is fine); and then arrange the items of ID information around it in whatever way you prefer. The following list includes the most commonly used personal data. You do not need to use all these items, of course, but those which provide a basic physical description should always be included. If you wish to use more than will fit comfortably on the front, put them on the back of the card.

Name	Color of Eyes
Address	Color of Hair
Marital Status	Scars, Marks, Tattoos
Date of Birth	Social Security Number
Place of Birth	Race
Citizenship	Employee Number
Present Age	Thumbprint
Height	Blood Type
Weight	Signature

Two additional items might also appear on the reverse side. A print of a finger or a thumb can be inked onto a third or a half of the card with an appropriate caption under or over it. The balance of the back can be taken up either by a notary seal or by some other kind of official-looking seal or stamp. Stamps or seals that say "Registered," "Original," "Certified," "Recorded," etc., can be purchased from most printers. Look in the Yellow Pages under "Stamps" and "Seals" for places which can make special seals to your order. A person can also take ID to a notary, unsigned, and have him put his seal on the card after it is signed in his presence. A one-dollar charge for this is customary.

Some Trippers like the idea of notarization, but hesitate to use a regular notary public. Therefore, certain enterprising persons say they have had their own notary (private) seals made! Even if the seal maker balks at the thought of creating a totally fictitious one, there's still a way to get a seal made anyway, informants claim. A person could go to an established notary and have him notarize anything, making sure the print comes out quite clear. Then he could take the print to a seal maker, explaining that his imprinter device was ruined in a fire, or simply lost, and that a replacement is needed. It would be easier at this point to send in a neat-looking "secretary," who would explain that her "boss" sent her to get the seal replaced. The stamp man will reproduce the seal and put it in a new machine. As soon as

the various ID cards are stamped and signed, the notarization (with the real notary's "signature") will provide a very official-looking addition to its appearance.



## NOTARIZATION

Remember, official notaries can be held liable for their mistakes. Therefore, certain situations make some of these vigilant ID inspectors suspicious. Here are some examples:

- Possession of only one piece of ID. (Theory: No really respectable American consumer can survive without a pocket-full of paper.)
- Refusal to provide additional requested ID or reference.
- Strange scratches, blots or other irregularities on a form of ID.
- Suspicious mannerisms or aggressive behavior possibly intended to intimidate or distract the notary.
- A signature which seems inconsistent with a person's physical appearance. For example, a large, husky man presenting ID with a frail-looking signature.
- Insistence that the introduction or verification by another unknown person constitutes proof of identity.
- Insistence on "telephone-call" notarization.

No single identification card provides absolute proof of identity. Thus, ID monitors, such as notaries, go for quantity of ID as well as quality. According to *The National Notary*, a notary "is not seeking one 'ultimate' piece of identification, but a series of items which together will provide substantial proof of an individual's true identity." Some of the items accepted as "proof" of true identity are: driver's licenses, passports, birth certificates, credit cards, and employee ID cards.

Yet, in the final analysis — "if a person is unknown to the Notary, there is absolutely no positive identification that he can present to the Notary to prove his identity. The question of whether a person is known to the Notary or

unknown to the Notary must be decided in a court of law. Each case of 'known vs. unknown' will vary depending on the degree of diligence, competence, skill and integrity of the Notary," according to *The National Notary*.

## SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

The inexpensive, "do-it-yourself" reproduction of documents is not difficult. By following specific instructions appropriate for the document, you can achieve surprising success:

**WHITE PAPER, BLACK PRINT** requires these materials: two sheets of clear plastic lamination (clear plastic sheets with glue on one side) slightly larger than the original document; a bottle of liquid eradicator; paper glue; access to a typewriter (department stores supply electric typewriters with well-worn, "professional-looking" ribbons to tempt customers); a recent photograph (if needed); transparent tape (dull finish); access to a photocopier (look for the best available at banks, libraries, and print shops).

If you are borrowing a document for reproduction, you will want to protect the original. Therefore, laminate it or enclose it in clear plastic before making any "alterations." Then use liquid eradicator over the plastic to blot out all printing (photograph, fingerprint, etc.) to be changed. Use the liquid sparingly, exercising caution and precision so as not to cover information on the line above or below.

As soon as this part of the procedure is finished, photocopy the desired number of copies of the altered card or document. (Remember to photocopy the back, if applicable.) Then type or write in the new information in the appropriate areas. Glue in photo, etc. Trim to correct size; glue back and front together; and laminate.

**BLACK BASE, WHITE PRINT** turns out best when the original document is not laminated or covered with plastic. An enterprising individual can locate the necessary white letters and numbers in magazine ads, TV program guides, etc. Be sure that the letters used are of a consistent size and type. After spacing the letters neatly on the original document, tape the changes in place. Photocopy; trim to size; glue back to front (if necessary); and laminate.

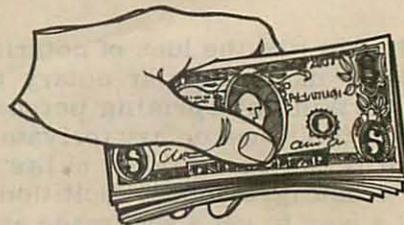
**COLOR DOCUMENTS** require these materials: Polaroid camera; color film; tripod or books to hold camera flat and steady; two sheets of clear plastic for each copy desired. Adjustable table lamp (dull finish on bulbs); transparent tape (dull finish); paper with color similar to original document.

It is best not to laminate or cover the original with plastic; the lamination causes a glare which distorts the appearance of the photograph. If the original is already laminated (or if you must protect the original), tape the entire document with dull transparent tape which can be removed easily. Then on paper of a similar color as the original document, type (or write) in the changed data. Using dull transparent tape once again, tape the new information in strips over the original. Be sure the spacing is exact, without obscuring any information in any other area.

After this is accomplished, tape the corrected copy on a wall or easel. Point the lamps to the left and right of the document, being careful to avoid creating shadows. Use a close-up lens, if your camera has one. If not, be sure you are far enough away to focus clearly on the entire document. You will probably have to take quite a number of experimental shots to obtain the best combinations of lighting, distance and other variables. However, when this is done, all you have to do is cut the document to the proper size and laminate it.

## COPIER COUNTERFEITERS

The Xerox Model 6500 color copier is one example of modern technology that the usually pro-science law enforcement agencies could do without. This mindless accomplice to counterfeiting can copy both sides of a document, using enough different types of paper and parchment to produce examples of checks, currency, diplomas, and gift certificates. Money orders and cashier's checks are especially dear to the hearts of copier counterfeiters because the payee's name is often not filled in at the time of purchase.



However, there is widespread debate about the quality of reproduction. Some critics cite incidents of Xerox copies of a dollar bill being used to get change from a machine at a coin-operated laundry and postage stamps and flight insurance from vending machines. Donald Monroe, a vice-president of the Hillcrest State Bank in Dallas, says he's seen a Xeroxed dollar bill that looked "very, very good." It had been

made from an original that had been bleached in order to allow for the color intensification that would have been a giveaway otherwise. Yet, Jack Warner of the Secret Service states that bills copied on the 6500 "should be easily identified by the average citizen who takes the trouble to examine the money he handles."

As the controversy continues, security advisors have issued some suggestions to help prevent copier-fraud, according to *Money* magazine:

If possible, compare the suspect document with one you know is authentic. Some colors may vary; and the copy is likely to be more garish.

Using a piece of white tissue paper, rub the suspicious document and compare what rubs off onto the tissue with the document. If the document is genuine, the colors should match. If it's a copy, they'll be different. Black produces a light blue smudge, red a yellow one.

Put a blank piece of paper over the document and run a hot electric iron over it. Xerox copies will stick to the paper; printed documents won't.

A counterfeit document may have flecks of red or other colors in the blank spaces, or a tiny halo of blue near any black lettering or on the edge of the document.

## WARNING

A reminder: Circumstances are in a constant state of change. Wise Trippers check out information and methods before launching some new venture beyond the point of no return. An option that may be good and valid today could become an impossibility tomorrow.

Just consider the advances in ID technology. Security-conscious firms are bound to take advantage of any advances or refinements of ID verification. For example, the "engraved image" ID card is generating a lot of interest. Advertised as a "new, forgery-proof identification card," the system utilizes a computer-controlled engraving technique: "The process does not utilize a photograph. The image of the individual, along with an image of his or her fingerprint and other information, is engraved on a plastic card and becomes an integral part of the card itself," explains a spokesman for Solid State Technology (the U.S. distributors of the invention from Fuji Electric Co. of Tokyo).

"The image is physically engraved on the card by a diamond needle which is electronically controlled. Any modifications to the image at a later time can be easily detected by the card reader," the spokesman says. "Since the image

is engraved on the card, and not glued, it will not detach. The engraved image is not subject to discoloring or fading with age; thus all of the information is retained clearly and accurately . . . The protrait of the applicant can be put in a computer memory for future reference."

The system is appealing to firms dealing with credit cards, bank cards, etc. However, the process isn't restricted to the business world's "plastique mystique"; it is also frighteningly adaptable to government's paper-pushing: driver's licenses, alien immigration cards, firearms identification, and passports. With the information used to process the engraving stored for reference on cassette tapes, comparison by card and fingerprint terminals can be linked up with one massive, central computer system. Shades of 1984. . . .

## PRIVATELY-ISSUED ID CARDS BY MAIL

At any one time there are a dozen or so mail-order firms selling ID cards and various other "certificates." While a few seem to have copied the designs and formats of other firms, most offer their own unique style of product. They generally advertise in the more popular magazines and national tabloids.

Before you rush out to sample their products, however, a few words of caution are in order. First, there seems to be a rather rapid turnover in the lives of these firms. Some have appeared suddenly, and just as quickly disappeared — with customers' money, of course. Some, too, have disappeared because they became the targets of local law enforcement, and had their operations shut down.

There is now a federal law affecting mail order ID cards which requires the legend "NOT A GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT" on both the face and reverse of the cards, if the card carries the age or birthdate of the person named. Our research indicates that most of the mail order ID companies do not advise their customers of this requirement until the finished card is sent back. Their brochures do not illustrate what the card will really look like, something that amounts to misrepresentation. . . .

Another caution is to realize that the so-called "State ID Cards," or "Guaranteed State Identification Cards," offered by some of these firms are in no way actual state ID cards, but simply

cards with different states' names on them. Do not rely on advertising that offers such products. Such cards might serve various amateur activities, but they will never get you by a traffic cop.

**NOTE:** Most arrests occur in situations not related to the actual crime for which the arrest is made. The situation producing the greatest number of arrests is the stopping of drivers for traffic violations. **THIS IS A FACT.**

Recently, a few firms have appeared offering "ID that resembles your State's driver's license," or "Simulated Driver's Licenses." Having seen these firms' products and knowing what all the states' licenses look like, we can honestly say that these products are the very-next-thing to actual counterfeits. While it might seem "cool" to obtain a pocketful of these "licenses," we can guarantee you that these firms are now receiving the full heat of active investigation, and may not be around much longer. The following article speaks for itself:



Finally, we note that all the states have specific laws governing misleading reproduction of their official documents, such as driver's licenses and state identification cards. Here is a typical example of such laws from Florida: "It is unlawful for any person . . . to photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce any identification card or facsimile thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid identification card, or to display or have in his possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate, reproduction, or facsimile unless authorized by the provisions of this section." (State Traffic laws, Ch. 322, (8), (f))

## Fake Drivers' License Sales Draw Suit For 'Minster Firm

**SANTA ANA** — A printing firm called Box 1040, Westminster, was sued by the district attorney Thursday for allegedly manufacturing and selling fake drivers' licenses.

Deputy district attorney Jeffrey Roehl said a preliminary injunction to halt the practice will be sought in Superior Court against the firm and its president, Michael Ives, whose last known address was in Garden Grove.

The civil suit alleges the

sale of the simulated drivers' licenses is unlawful, constituting forgery. It also claims the practice is unfair because the defendants should have known the license facsimiles would mislead persons to whom they were shown.

Roehl said the investigation began when an Orange County resident received a brochure in the mail. "The idea didn't look right to the person who sent it to us and it didn't look right to us either," he said.

"We feel they are close enough (in appearance) to confuse people, and a person can order them with the name of which ever state the person wants on it," Roehl said.

The suit, filed under California business laws, seeks to halt the practice and collect civil penalties of \$2,500 for each violation.

You can be certain that their files and records will be thoroughly searched for "questionable customers." Don't count on promises by such firms that sales records are not kept, either. They DO keep records! If they should also come under actual investigation, all incoming and outgoing mail will likely be photographed by Postal Inspectors and handed over to local prosecutors. Doing business with these firms may not be too "cool" after all. Can you hear that knocking at the door. . . ?

### ADDITIONAL DATA

Here are some interesting items of information to store for future strategic use in your mental computerbank of Paper Tripping maneuvers:

— The "Badge-A-Minit" process allows a Tripper to put his picture, name, etc. on a button. Add this device to other homemade "proof" and the total ID picture can add up to

something quite impressive. A number of novelty shops produce made-to-order buttons while you wait. (For more information on "Badge-A-Minit," write: Badge-A-Minit, Ltd., Civic Industrial Park, Box 618, La Salle, Illinois 61301.)

## Custom LETTERING... is easy!

— Transfer lettering provides authoritative "art" work for do-it-yourself physical ID. Available in many different styles and sizes, dry transfer lettering can be found conveniently at almost any stationery or art supply store.

— Some Paper Trippers prefer to establish their identities by purchasing blank baptismal certificates. However, before visiting the local religious-goods store, they sometimes have a letter prepared on "church" stationery from the "pastor." The letter might state that the individual in question is hereby authorized to pick up X number of blank baptismal certificates for the "church."

— Adventurous individuals who define tripping in a foreign country as other than just vacationing sometimes call or visit the local U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service office. Officials obligingly tell them where they can obtain birth certificates in foreign countries.

— If police ID is your thing, you can send away for any number of "confidential" catalogs offered in ads published in magazines like *True Detective* and *Gung-Ho*, one of the new military aficionado publications. Everything for the cop fantasy is offered: badges, cases, cards, cuffs, books, fingerprinting sets, and manuals on investigation, bugging and anti-bugging. Being a "peace officer" could conceivably get you out of tight spots now and then.

— More reading material of interest to Paper Trippers is *A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* (prepared by the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, Committee on the Judiciary, 94th Congress). This small but valuable booklet is available for 65¢ from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

## JOIN THE CLUB

Memberships provide a very large group of ID cards. Thousands of organizations across the country issue membership cards, cards with a person's name and the name of the organization — such as clubs (VFW, Elks, DAR, YMCA), societies (alumni, fraternities, sororities,

professional, charity), churches of all denominations, and schools of every level.

A few of these cards can always be included in a package of constructed ID to lend "depth" to a new name. In and of themselves, they are not normally considered ID; but their mere presence creates a certain "quantum" feature which readily lends credibility to the entire collection. Like "physical" ID, memberships can sometimes be that "last" piece of ID that leaves other people completely convinced about an identity. There's no need to "overdo," of course; but a few are always nice.

Ways to obtain these cards — other than by actually joining — are probably as numerous as there are organizations. Your imagination can easily run wild, but here are a few of the quicker techniques. . . .

Some knowledgeable folks say they have contacted friends who already have memberships in clubs or organizations they want to "join." They request a duplicate membership card by writing the outfit in the friend's name, using the excuse of a lost wallet, etc. They ask, however, that the organization *not* print the name — as it will be privately done in gold leaf, Old English, or something else. More than likely, the club will comply; and a blank card will arrive. . . .

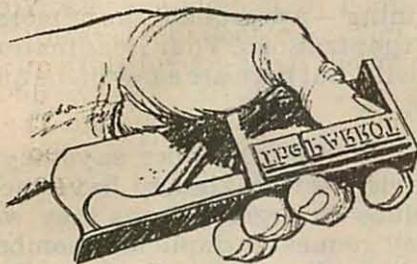
If you are not familiar with any particular club or society, look in the Yellow Pages under "Clubs," "Societies," "Charities," "Churches," "Schools," "Colleges," and pick one out. Make up any name you like and use the same method to get a blank card. Alluding to some distant chapter of the organization might facilitate matters, too. After all, they do want to help their members maintain their affiliations, don't they. . . ?

With some organizations, you can obtain blank cards simply by asking. Churches, schools and charity drives are cheerful givers. A person could embellish these cards with such bold additions as "Lifetime Member," "Honored Donor," "State Chairman," or whatever else sounds good. The "improving" could be done in gold leaf.

The businessman's "calling card" fits appropriately in this group — since there is no physical ID on its face. If you decide to create a company ID card, you might as well have a batch of related business cards printed in order to further solidify your attachment to that company. These are good for numerous purposes and should naturally have a respectable title under the name, such as Sales Director, Vice-President, District Manager, Ph.D., Systems Analyst, Secretary-Treasurer, Promo-

tional Supervisor, Classified Research, Special Agent, etc., etc., *ad glorium*.

A person can also have a printer create membership cards for virtually any organization he wants to make up. Provide a blank sample and the printer will reproduce it exactly, on even better looking card stock. He might insist on running several hundred at once, so be prepared to sell a few "memberships" to your friends. The printer will probably not question you closely, as he'll be only too glad to get the business.



## MORE ON MEMBERSHIPS

Here are a few tips on becoming a card-carrying member of some organizations which provide paper props for new identities. This information is courtesy of some experienced Paper Trippers:

— One New York informant says that the food stamp program is good way to add ID: "Call or visit your local social services department. Obtain an application and schedule an appointment for an interview. Be sure to have documented proof of your income. To fill this requirement, simply borrow a friend's award letter from Social Security, welfare, etc. Photocopy the award letter. Opaque your friend's name, address, etc., and insert the information you intend to use.

"You'll also need proof of expenses, i.e. rent, electric, etc. I strongly suggest that you claim that you live in a furnished pad with everything included — simply because it's a lot easier to procure rent receipts than it is to produce actual utility receipts. . . . You're ready now for the interview. The interviewer will look over the 'evidence': and, if you appear to be eligible, he'll issue you a food stamp ID card on the spot — even though a final decision on your application won't be made for a week or so. You'll then be notified by mail."

— Donor cards promote substantiation of ID as well as respect for the cardholder. THE LIVING BANK (Box 6725, Houston, TX 77005)

issues a *free donor card* to anyone who requests one. Be sure to enclose a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope with the request.

All fifty states have enacted an Anatomical Gift Act. In California, a 1975 law allows a citizen (over 18) to voluntarily place a sticker on the back of his driver's license to pledge a donation. If you apply for a new driver's license or renew your old one, you will receive the sticker automatically. To be legally valid, the sticker must be signed by you in the presence of two witnesses and by the two witnesses. If your license hasn't expired and you don't want to wait, you may obtain a sticker from your local DMV or a uniform donor card from a cooperating agency.

— New York has its own employment service, with offices located throughout the state. The importance of this service to the Paper Tripper is that it provides an official applicant identification card. The job-seeker is supposed to bring this card with him each time he reports to an office. The service is free to anyone; and no appointment is necessary.

— The American Veterans Group Insurance Trust (group life insurance coverage) provides a credit-card-type ID card which is very impressive. It can be obtained by almost anyone at no cost. One individual simply received an unsolicited card in the mail. (His name was probably supplied from a magazine subscription mailing list.) The card is included — without any obligations — with the insurance information. This laminated plastic color card (complete with embossed lettering of the applicant's name) makes excellent back-up ID for a selective service discharge card. (National Home Life Assurance Company, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 19493; Call Toll Free: 800-523-7900, in Pennsylvania: 1-800-362-7975.)

— Become a "registered sales representative," via the Post Office. An ad in *Salesman's Opportunities Magazine* prompted this clever individual to write in: "This printing company (National Press, Inc., North Chicago, Illinois 60064) advertised for independent commissioned sales representatives. I simply filled out the coupon, making no mention of my previous sales background, and mailed it. Two weeks later, I received a wealth of material from them, including a *numbered company identification card* — plus their sales catalog containing a complete line of business cards, stationery, and every conceivable business form at very competitive prices. Now, how does this help the Paper Tripper?"

1. It gives him a *verifiable* job reference. He is, in fact, a registered sales representative of a legitimate printing company.

2. He has a prime source for ordering any business cards, letterheads, etc., that he may require.

3. He pays the lowest possible price for needed materials. Plus, he is entitled to a 25% discount for placing the order with the company.

## CONCLUSION

One final thought on memberships: Always avoid the temptation to pirate someone else's card by altering the name or the numbers. If you decide to acquire some "memberships," obtain your own stock from a legitimate source and then print your own name, numbers and copy. In this way, there will never be any question or doubt regarding the surface of the card. You should never put yourself in any suspicious circumstances. Be right out front and in the open with your ID.

**REMEMBER:** You are the person the card says you are unless it can be proven otherwise; and no one is going to think of such a thing unless you make them think it. The word is: **DO IT RIGHT!**

Also, here is another a word of warning. Although *THE PAPER TRIP I* covers virtually the entire range of useful ID, very few persons need more than three or four in each name. Each person must visualize for himself just what kind of person he needs to be, and from there, set out to complete his profile by acquiring the most effective paper. It's actually bad to overdo the amount of ID forms, as the most essential element of good ID is *completeness*. Your ID has to "add up" to a reasonable person. Quality in the assortment must come before quantity. Each person has to make his own decision about his particular needs and image. There are no "magic formulas" inasmuch as people and situations vary in their demands for specific ID.

## IX.

# CRUISING THE CREDIT-CARD CIRCUIT

*I've never been hurt by anything  
I didn't say.*

—Calvin Coolidge

## THE PLASTIC SOCIETY

Professional ID inevitably includes the full range of credit cards. Although a few companies are beginning to use customer's photos on the card, as a class they generally have no personal ID information whatever. Your name, signature, account number, and the dates between which the card is valid are about as far as they go in providing individual data. The rest is stored in a computer file, based on your original application.

In today's increasingly cashless society, credit cards are becoming the controllable link between people, income, and property. They are immediately accepted for a multitude of specific financial jobs; and in most transactions, they are the only ID required. The *PAPER TRIP* considers them ID and, thus, includes here its

own ideas on how to obtain them. What you do with them is, of course, your own business.

The first rule, unquestionably, is **DON'T USE SOMEONE ELSE'S CARD!!** It's much too dangerous — and illegal as well. It's infinitely better to get the credit card companies themselves to send you their cards — but under the name you choose. The credit companies and banks who issue these cards are very anxious for your trade, and doubly anxious to issue the real card to all those who qualify.

Even though a new name will have no existing credit record, there are firms which specialize in getting people started in the credit world by merely depositing \$4-500 with participating banks, which in turn issue Visa and Mastercards to the applicants. Generally, if the account has been maintained in a responsible manner for a year, the deposit is returned. Our book, *CREDIT!*, has all the details.

*CREDIT!* also tells how to get all the credit cards you want, how to get out of debt without

bankruptcy, how to obtain virtually unlimited consumer credit, and how to borrow \$3,000 with no questions asked. The book also outlines the consumer's rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Credit Billing Act, and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (which prohibits denial of credit to women solely on the basis of sex; now the ladies can trip, too). Finally, *CREDIT!* analyzes the mysterious machinations of the credit monitors (credit bureaus and investigative-reporting agencies) and tells what's kept in those computerized files.

## BASIC PROCEDURE

To make sure your credit application gets accepted, you must keep in mind what the lender is looking for. For approval, he's generally going to want to be sure you have most of the following characteristics:

1. A savings account and/or a regular checking account. The \$400 minimum balance gives you a "medium" rating on your savings account, which is "good."
2. Income level of at least \$125 per week. Over \$15,000 a year, and the blessings of affluence are instantly yours with abundant, unlimited credit.
3. Good credit history — regular payments and no "binges."
4. Employment with the same firm for at least the last three years.

**NOTE:** If you can't meet the credit and employment requirements of points 3 and 4, you might use this proven technique: Have someone answer two different phone numbers for you, one as your place of employment, and the other as a creditor from whom you have borrowed. A call from the lender to verify how long you've worked for the firm (three to five years is perfect), and the kind of credit record you have (payments all made on time, even early) will result in approval for just about any credit card you wish. They all want your new account, so help them out. . . .

5. Long time residence in the area, preferably in your own house. At worst, no more than two moves in the last five years.
6. Age should be over 25; 35 to 65 is best.
7. Occupation in a professional category (all but aerospace, that is). Executive, physician, salaried sales manager, minister — all are good.

All of these characteristics, even age, can be constructed and supplied on demand. Give them whatever information they require and they'll put you in business. Provide two different

telephone numbers, one to verify employment and the other to verify your credit rating, and they are satisfied. Set up a proper bank account in advance and their credit check will be completed. Place of residence is almost never checked, so choose a suitable address and have the card mailed to you in c/o your business address, which can be a Post Office box.

Never worry about personal references, either, because they are never checked out. The only reason they are ever requested is to make you feel more responsible for your actions. A psychological ploy. Provide them, though, by listing first-class references such as doctors or ministers: Get their names and addresses from the phone book.



**HANDY HINT:** In supplying credit references beyond the one which your friend will "verify," you should remember that some firms (especially department stores and credit unions) will *not* give out their credit ratings to anyone. So, if you supply one or several of these references, you can be fairly certain that they will not be checked out. The lender knows he can't verify your "references," but he will definitely not tell you that. He will base his lending decision on the assumption of your honesty. . . .

## CREDIT-SCORING

The data which appears on the computer screen at the local credit bureau does not always program the final answer to an application for credit or loans. Some businesses favor the quick simplicity of credit-scoring. This system grants credit on the basis of points awarded for some easily available information. Each firm can "individualize" this system to suit its own particular needs. Thus, the points assigned to a specific fact can correspond to the firm's own credit philosophy. For example, one New York bank uses only six characteristics. In decreasing order of importance, they are:

applicant's employer, time with employer, ownership or rental of a house, other bank checking and savings accounts, own bank checking and savings accounts and telephone.

However, this logical numerical system (as well as computerized credit-reporting systems) cannot be 100% effective in the face of human ingenuity and creativity. According to experts, such systems are defenseless against a con artist who knows how they work and who can defraud a credit grantor by providing the right kind of wrong answer.

A further note about credit-scoring: Credit bureaus and retailers are moving toward this process in order to avoid possible charges of race or sex discrimination. "For example, a home phone may be worth 10 points, no phone worth two points; living in one part of town 25 points, in another eight. . ." explains Noel Capon, lecturer at Harvard's Graduate School of Business. Yet, this seemingly objective procedure can be as arbitrary and discriminatory as other methods, Capon says. "One major retailer has already demonstrated that persons whose last names begin with 'B' or 'K' are good risks. On that basis, hair color and left- and right-handedness could be used," he adds.

*Facts, as such, never settled anything.*

*They are working tools only. It is the implications that can be drawn from facts that count, and to evaluate these requires wisdom and judgment that are unrelated to the computer approach to life.*

—Clarence Randall

## LEGALLY SPEAKING

Most credit applications can now be handled by mail, which is almost more than you could ask for. Supply the required information, on paper, and they're delighted, too. Once you get your cards, here are a couple of little-known facts worth remembering.

1. When a clerk accepts your card as payment for any merchandise, the title to the goods is then yours. Legally, you are paying in full, not requesting a loan. What this means is important. You can now sell, trade, or even borrow against your new property without one word to the credit company. They have extended you credit on the basis of your ability to repay, not on the nature or amount of property you own.

2. In the case of MasterCard and Visa, you can own as many of these cards, under the same name, as there are banks to issue them to you. They must be different banks, however, and not just branches of the same bank. If you qualify at one bank, why not apply at the others as well?

They all want your business. By having four such cards with billing dates a week apart, you can easily get 60 days free credit. Add another four cards and the banks will carry you, free, for 90 days. The trick is in using the card with the most distant billing date, as well as taking advantage of the cards' cash loan features.

**HELPFUL BOOK:** The most complete description available anywhere of how debtors and "skips" can outwit, even beat, their creditors, is in *HOW TO BEAT THE BILL COLLECTOR*, from Eden Press. No tricks are left unmentioned, some of which skip tracers themselves cannot overcome. Freedom from debt is only a matter of knowing how to go about it; and this book tells how repayment can be completely on your terms. (The book is available from Eden Press for \$7.95.)

**PROJECT:** If you are curious about credit card companies, you can get a copy of *Business Week* magazine (Aug. 11, 1973) and turn to page 120. You'll get a full course in how phony credit cards beat the new detection systems. It's complete with pictures and detailed instructions.

**NOTE:** The oil companies have all but discontinued use of bank cards at their stations. This has put a kink in the plans of Visa and MasterCard to convert America into the first cashless society — with their cards, of course. Gasoline purchases were the most-charged items on bank cards, helping make overall use of the cards more attractive (profitable).

## PLASTIC FANTASTIC

Credit is easy to get, so use it. The pretty plastic cards put out by the credit merchants are marvelous, even impressive ID, and can be used in a most exciting manner when you know that YOU are always carrying the last trump, that of taking the Paper Trip. Go by the rules, and there's no way of their distinguishing between real accounts and constructed accounts. Only when you "disappear" does the reality of The Paper Society become apparent to those who push it the most. By then, of course, you will have already been notified that your application for a new account, under a new name, natch, has been enthusiastically approved, and that your new card will be arriving shortly. Same song, second verse. . . .

With credit cards in hand you provide the finishing touches to unquestionably good ID. Credit cards are The Paper Society's ultimate cover of respectability; and the Paper Tripper now knows how to avail himself of their endless bounty.

# X.

## THE EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONIST

*I have never let my schooling  
interfere with my education.*

—Mark Twain

### GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION

In today's competitive society, measurement of success is a matter of "degree" — including the two definitions of gradation and graduation. As President Lyndon Johnson explained: "We have entered an age in which education is not just a luxury permitting some men an advantage over others. It has become a necessity without which a person is defenseless in this complex, industrialized society. . . . We have truly entered the century of the educated man."

This fact of life has put a great deal of pressure on the individual. He (or she) must solve the problem of how to become "A SUCCESS." The accepted formula requires the pursuit of "AN EDUCATION." A diploma is one variable; but the extent to which a person will exert himself to achieve the goal is another. And it is this situation — the equation of diplomas to jobs and financial security — that has prompted many people to obtain fake academic credentials.

The degree dilemma is especially painful for both the applicants and the admission committees of graduate schools. Many students, battling tough competition to enter prestigious and selective schools of law, medicine and other professions, feel that they have nothing to lose and everything to gain. In fact, the "spurious methods used by some applicants to gain admission to graduate programs have forced schools to become detective agencies. It has become a large, expensive operation," says Thomas O. White, director of the law-programs division at the Educational Testing Service.

As a result of widespread "grade-tampering," graduate schools are becoming increasingly skeptical of the authenticity of applicants' college transcripts. Many schools "require extensive background checks, photo and fingerprint identification, face-to-face interviews, and handwriting analysis to determine if a student's application and test scores are legitimate," according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

In some cases, legal action is taken against alleged offenders. For example, the South Carolina Supreme Court recently disbarred a lawyer who had not graduated from high school. The woman had falsified her application to law school with the aid of a copy of another woman's degree. She simply spotted a name similar to hers in a college yearbook and obtained a copy of the degree, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The academic "contempt" was not discovered until she had graduated and passed the South Carolina bar examination!



However, this type of legal action is rare. Although admissions committees are becoming more cautious and inquisitive, it appears that phony credentials will continue to enable people to get into name schools and, subsequently, to practice highly-respected (not to mention lucrative) professions. People will continue to follow John Dewey's pronouncement: "We learn to do by doing." Some of the reasons for this are:

1. THE "BUCKLEY AMENDMENT" OF THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 — This provision allows students full access to their academic records.

2. COMPUTERIZATION OF ACADEMIC RECORDS — Many school administrators see this as an invitation for grade-tampering by skillful students or profit-oriented computer operators.

3. **OVERWORKED ADMISSIONS COMMITTEES** — Some acceptance staffs have too few members and too little time to scrupulously screen all applicants.

4. **LACK OF CRIMINAL PENALTIES** — Two states consider falsification of credentials a misdemeanor; but officials say such cases are difficult to prosecute. And, although the Association of American Law Schools has drafted a "model academic-fraud statute," state legislatures have not yet adopted it.

## ADVANCING BY DEGREES

*A degree is not an education; and the confusion on this point is perhaps the gravest weakness in American thinking about education.*

—PROSPECT FOR AMERICA

For the Machiavellian-minded pragmatist, it is easier to buy a degree than to earn one. Real desperation for economic advancement and/or the ego gratification supplied by a diploma prompt many people to bypass the benefits of the college experience in favor of a mail-order "education." Also, some individuals with new identities require instant, authoritative documentation to get them out of bureaucratic limbo and back into the mainstream of life. These people are all ready candidates for degree mills which provide mail-order diplomas and ordinations — in most cases, without course work or educational requirements.

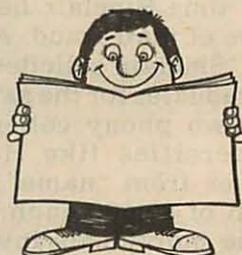
Most of these institutions function legally within the gaps and loopholes of federal legislation. First Amendment rights and the traditional ideal of religious freedom make rulings on degree mills difficult to achieve. Also, vague state laws allow such institutions to flourish. In California, for example, the "A-3" category of Section 29023 of the State Board of School Approvals Code allows almost anyone possessing \$50,000 in assets to pay a \$300 filing fee and open a "school." The school can grant degrees ranging from the A.A. (Associate Arts) to the Ph.D (if the school is accredited or has the permission of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction).

Thus, the quality and the reliability of the services provided by these educational institutions vary. Diploma mills come and go; but they do so only in certain states. The most "open" states for this type of operation have always been Missouri and Florida, with Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Illinois allowing it apparently under "church" sanctions. Aiding and abetting the dissemination of degrees to the deserving is the fact that thirteen states allow

the reproduction of their state seal or coat of arms. For the record, these states are: Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Some "rugged individualists" who want to improve their employment status advocate creating their own credentials on a basic stock form. It's not a terribly difficult task: Simply print your name on it; emboss it; and notarize it — all in your own "Records Office"! The philosophy is: If you're capable of doing the work, why should a piece of paper — or the lack of it — prevent you from progressing?!

Following the same ideology, the less intrepid, more sedentary student can discover where to "apply" for his chosen education in the classified ads found in tabloids (i.e., *Rolling Stone*, *The Star*, *National Enquirer*, *Midnight Globe*) and magazines (i.e., *Psychology Today*, *Mother Jones*). Look under the subject headings of "Education," "Instruction," "Certificates," "Colleges & Universities," and even "Miscellaneous."



As for the acceptability of these diplomas, the outcome depends on both the individual and the employer. Most employers take it on face value that you possess a degree, if you say you do. On the other hand, if you claim you have a degree and don't — or can't — act or perform according to generally accepted expectations of those with degrees, you may not be able to make others believe in your credentials' authenticity.

Many people believe that very little double-checking is ever done. Often, "larger" employers are less aware of the unknown or "mill" schools and are reluctant to admit they know nothing about them. In recent years, there have been so many schools opened — and closed — that few people could possibly be aware of all the legitimate and non-legitimate, too.

Serious Paper Trippers have used foreign universities, especially those in non-English-speaking countries, for their "diplomas." Few personnel officers know how to write in German, French, Spanish, etc. They usually don't want to appear less educated than the appli-

cant; therefore, they tend to take the individual's word for it instead of appearing at a disadvantage. Thus, many Trippers have found that they can add instant "depth" to their ID and create a believable and impressive "past," devoid of unexplained "gaps."

## CAVEAT EMPTOR

A word of caution to absentee scholars who want instant degrees: Beware of rip-off diploma mills. These "institutions of higher learning" sometimes catch a lot of heat from the media and the law. This, in turn, generates a lot of unwanted publicity about the credits on your resume — especially if the "dean" of your alma mater goes to jail. Consider the example presented by California Pacifica University and Hollywood Southern University, both operated by Ernest Sinclair.

Sinclair was sentenced recently to five years in prison for mail fraud, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. This dedicated academician netted an estimated \$100,000 in one year from the sale of fake diplomas. This conviction marks the third time Sinclair has been convicted on charges of mail fraud. According to the government, Sinclair solicited more than 1,000 potential graduates for the sale of degrees either from his two phony colleges or from legitimate universities like Harvard and Columbia. Degrees from "name" institutions cost a minimum of \$2,500 each. The *Times* reports that some individuals invested \$1,000 and more for what they believed to be valid college diplomas based on "work experience."

A federal judge described Sinclair as a man with "a degree of professionalism," who seemed to take "great joy in seeing how many people he could fleece." Sinclair was often heard to refer to his supposedly intellectual clientele as "suckers." And, as he allegedly told one irate customer who wanted to turn him in to the authorities: "You know damn well that the government can lock your ass up in prison but they can't get your money." This attitude should make the potential graduate wary of placing total confidence in the integrity of all members of the mail-order academic community.

## STUDENT "AID"

This new approach to education has led to the development of firms which function somewhat like information services, assisting the individual in the assessment of his options. One such respected authority is John Bear, Ph.D. ("earned the hard way"). According to Bear, "It is possible — it is honestly possible — to earn a

fully-accredited, legal, legitimate, even prestigious bachelors, masters or doctorate from any number of well-known colleges and universities, without ever taking a single course."

Bear has collected and organized vast amounts of data (including names, addresses and costs) in a report titled *HOW TO GET THE DEGREE YOU WANT*, only \$24.95 from Eden Press. This 280-page report covers all the major aspects of the diploma dilemma. In order to illustrate the vast, complex proportions of mail-order education — and to inspire our readers' active minds — here is a listing of some of the subjects the book covers:

1. Legitimate schools that require no course-work, have no residency requirements, yet offer valid degrees;
2. Schools in the U.S., Europe and Asia that offer degrees primarily through independent study (with little or no residency requirements);
3. Traditional schools where degrees may be earned entirely by part-time study;
4. Traditional schools where degrees may be earned with one year or less on campus (plus credits from correspondence courses and equivalency exams);
5. Weekend Colleges;
6. Law Schools;
7. Medical Schools;
8. Fundamentalist Bible Schools;
9. Accreditation;
10. Associate Degrees and The Honorary Doctorate;
11. Experimental Schools and Free Universities;
12. Alternate Education and the Military (including the DANTEs independent study program, Servicemen's Opportunity Colleges, and Project Ahead);
13. Correspondence Courses;
14. CLEP: the College-Level Examination Program;
15. The Regents Credit Bank (for transcripts);
16. Diploma Mills and Schools Under Investigation;
17. State Laws (governing college degrees).

## CLEP

A good way for a Paper Tripper to make a fast and safe "re-entry" into the academic world is to take advantage of the CLEP (College-Level Examination Program) offered by the College Entrance Examination Board (Box 592, Princeton, NJ 08540). This worldwide program provides college credit for exams. A person can earn from 10% to 100% of the credits required for a degree at more than 1,500 schools. Thus, certain school's standards (like those of the University of the State of New York and Thomas A. Edison College) allow qualified individuals to earn an accredited bachelors degree entirely through CLEP and/or other comparable examinations.

CLEP's general exams (comparable to a second-year level of knowledge) and specific subject exams (comparable to final exams in college courses) cost about \$20 for one, \$30 for two, and \$40 for three, four and five. Besides having reasonable fees, CLEP has convenience in its favor. Scores can be sent only to the student or to any designated school as well.

Another valuable service is New York's Regents External Degree Program. With no age, residence, high school diploma or classroom attendance requirements, tests constitute the curriculum. Students pay a \$50 enrollment fee. An evaluation by a committee follows. The committee determines the amount of credit already earned. This may consist of other college work, the CLEP tests, military exams and work experience. Deficiencies are alleviated through a series of tests taken at local universities. The tests cost about \$25 and provide from three to forty credits. The average cost of a B.A. is \$400. More information is available from Regents External Degree, 99 Washington, Room 1919, Albany, NY 12230.

## PUTTING THE PAST IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE

The University of the State of New York also provides another fantastic service, seemingly tailor-made for the unique needs of the Paper Tripper. A person who is trying to "re-establish" documentation of his educational past is often in need of a professional transcript. The Regents Credit Bank can solve that problem.

This organization functions as a "clearing-house" for academic data. Its objective is to consolidate all information about an individual's academic record into one coherent transcript. Thus, all types of data, including grades from different schools, correspondence coursework, independent study, proficiency

exams, work experience, etc., can be standardized and presented on one impressive document — with the Credit Bank acting as a "go-between" (between a person's paper "past" and his educational and employment future). The initial fee is \$50; the final cost depends on the type and difficulty of the necessary evaluation and assessment. For more details, write:

The Regents Credit Bank  
The University of the State of New York  
99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210

## THE ULTIMATE REFERENCE

You can ascend to the exalted status of saint while you are still on earth to reap the benefits. This comfortable and practical ideology is the inspiration of the Universal Life Church — which now will confer sainthood by mail. This canonization fits perfectly in the lifestyle of the '70s and '80s; it's quick, simple and cheap in these inflationary times. It does not require martyrdom — only a letter explaining the good deeds you have done. (Get a friend or one of your flock to write in for you if you possess appropriate saintly humility.) Also, enclose \$5 for the necessary handling charges. In return for your sacrifice, you will receive an official certificate proclaiming your sainthood. This document is bound to come in handy if anyone should doubt your credentials. Now, would a saint lie?



## MAIL FORWARDING SERVICES

To secure the value and benefits of newly-acquired academic credentials, it is advisable to use a remail service (mail forwarding service). This unique business provides the advantage of *privacy* when obtaining and sending degrees, transcripts and references. A remail service promotes anonymity because it is a third, disinterested party, receiving and forwarding mail for its clients.

While the company is subject to all the requirements of the Postal Service, the client uses the remail service's address (usually a Post Office box) as his own. When the service receives the customer's mail, it forwards it to him in a plain envelope — or holds it until it's

requested. Outgoing mail can have the postmark of the city in which the service operates.

A person with imagination can find many applications for this concept. Here are some beneficial, practical uses suggested by a fine service called Buffalo Mail Drop (P.O. Box 8, Buffalo, NY 14212):

- Mail order businesses can create an inexpensive "branch office."
- Individuals in divorce cases can gain instant privacy.
- Secret correspondence can be maintained conveniently.
- Imprisoned or institutionalized individuals can keep their true locations unknown.
- Individuals in financial difficulty can keep their whereabouts a secret.
- Businessmen who travel extensively can have all mail directed quickly and efficiently to various points on their itinerary.
- Residents of motels and hotels can prevent their mail from being seen or handled by snooping clerks.

Also, job recommendations can be supplied by using the letterheads of your past "employers" and listing the addresses of out-of-state mail forwarding services as the business addresses. Stationery of big companies can be reproduced — with the bogus address — by a quick printer or a photocopier. "New" transcripts can be sent in this way, too. The quickest way to locate remail services is to look in the "Personal" section of the classified ads of any of the large metropolitan newspapers, tabloids and magazines (available at most public libraries). Rates are reasonable (usually \$2-\$5 per month); and these firms are almost always cool and discreet. They don't object to code names (or even no names) and are happy to forward mail to P.O. boxes (which the Postal Service will *not* do). The many possibilities of flexible mail delivery through these services are nothing short of amazing.

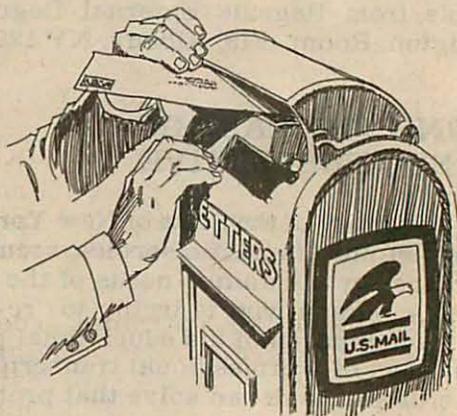
From the business standpoint, a remail service operates on the basis of monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual prepaid fees (plus a postage deposit). It stands to reason that a client who establishes a long-term relationship will better serve his own purposes, according to Jim Osgood, who operated his own remail service for a good number of years. The client's mail is forwarded by first class or airmail, subject to the client's wishes. All postage is prepaid. The company periodically informs the client of the postage balance. Because of the low profit margin, very few companies do any

billing. It is up to the client to keep track of his payment due dates. For a past-due account, mail is usually held for a two-week period; then it is returned to the sender.

All things considered, a remail service provides a lot of advantages for only a little effort and expense. To get started on the pursuit of postal privacy, a person simply obtains and returns a subscription form. The data is kept confidential. "Establishment-type" forwarding services usually require very detailed information, generally on an official Post Office form. However, this form is no longer mandatory.

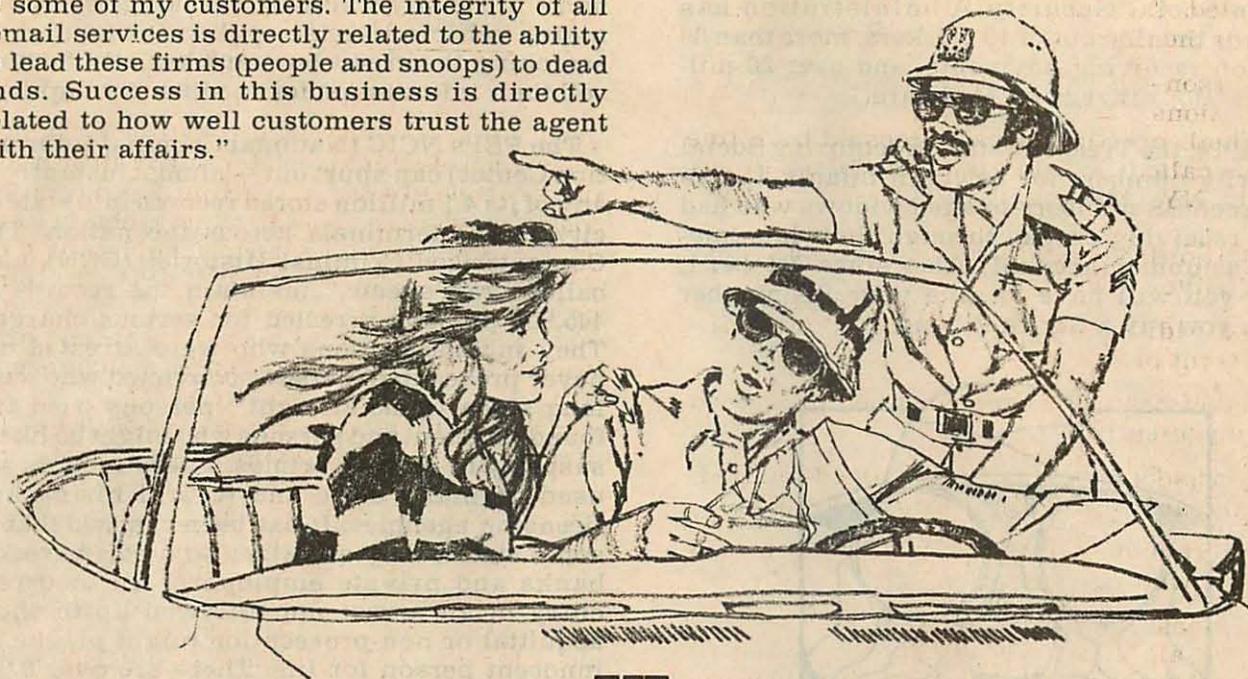
A valuable new reference is *THE EDEN DIRECTORY OF PRIVATE MAIL DROPS*, \$19.95 from Eden Press. This book lists the names and addresses of more than 2,500 "mail receiving companies." Most of the firms cited also offer other services: remailing, forwarding, telephone answering, secretarial services, etc. Listed by states, the services can be contacted directly for their specific services.

Another helpful reference is *BUDD'S OFFICIAL REMAILING GUIDE* (\$5). This booklet explains the nature of a mail forwarding firm and provides an impressive listing of the many services offered by Wayne Budd's own remail company (RR #1, Box 63, Eldorado, Ontario, Canada K0K 1Y0). This enterprising and discreet individual can assist the "postal-phobic" with: money orders, banking services, telegrams, postcards, single letter forwarding, newspapers, professional typing, and even "Million Dollar" lottery tickets.



As Budd explains: "All remail services are simply selling privacy. Everything is kept confidential. . . . This remail service has been requested by trust companies, banks, finance companies, auto companies, in-laws, husbands, wives and friends to divulge the real addresses

of some of my customers. The integrity of all remail services is directly related to the ability to lead these firms (people and snoops) to dead ends. Success in this business is directly related to how well customers trust the agent with their affairs."



## XI.

# PACK IN YOUR OLD PAPER PROFILE

*A person with a bad name is  
already half-hanged.*  
—Proverb

### THE IDENTITY CRISIS

What's in *your* name? Not very much at all. Except for your feelings, your name is only a jumble of letters — letters that have been printed, typed, stamped, imprinted, or signed — and that's it! It's a bit brutal to say, perhaps, but in this age of governmental data-gathering, credit bureau cross-checking and increasing computerization of information files, the individual is rapidly losing all his individuality. But fast!

Here's why: As this book attempts to demonstrate, massive collections of personal information taken from many sources have converted the individual into electronic impulses on computer tape. Information gathering on private citizens has mushroomed dramatically in recent years. Listing services — both public and private — now combine their records; and personal privacy is quickly lost as the computer uncaringly constructs dossiers on anyone it desires. A group, or "population," is

created; and the individual sinks into a sea of sameness with this neighbor, instantly lost, but also instantly retrievable. And this is despite a staggering number of neighbors. Consider these facts:

Fifty-four federal agencies have 858 data banks containing about 1.25 billion records on individual citizens. The files range from 10-dossier security clearance files at the Air Force Special Weapons Center to the Census Bureau's computerized data bank, with 204 million records. About 86% of these data banks are computerized. Nine of every 10 agencies honor the information buddy system, freely passing their files to other federal, state or local government agencies upon request.

The Department of Defense has records on 25 million persons. The Army alone has dossiers on eight million.

Credit bureaus are rapidly classifying everyone as the dossier market continues to boom. Equifax has files on more than 70 million Americans. Associated Credit Bureaus of America has 100 million persons pegged. The Credit Bureau of Greater New York alone has 10 million in its computer. Los Angeles has 100 *different* credit bureaus.

The Social Security Administration has records on nine out of 10 workers, more than 26 million receiving payments, and over 20 million senior citizens on Medicare.

In 1972, the Treasury started requiring Social Security numbers for newborn infants. It also assigned SS numbers to aged widows who had been receiving checks through their late husband's number (account). Also, since October 1, 1973, you will have to give your SS number when you buy a Series E bond.



The SS Administration has just been ordered by HEW (April, 1976) to cooperate fully with all the various state welfare agencies attempting to track down missing fathers. We believe it will not be long before the SS number is used to track down anyone for any reason whatever.

Federal welfare planners are now urging states to use local private credit bureaus to find welfare cheaters and track down runaway fathers. Federal law protects the confidentiality of an individual's welfare records; but now HEW is turning to Equifax and other big bureaus to ferret out information on individual's savings and income. Equifax recently tracked down 30% of Cincinnati's list of absent welfare fathers.

The U.S. Secret Service has complete files on over 50,000 activists who "threaten" the President.

The U.S. Passport Office has enough personal information to regard 250,000 Americans as "doubtful" or "questionable."

The FBI has fingerprint files on 85 million persons, including almost 20 million who have been arrested at one time or another.

In 1967, more than 6,000 missing Americans had their names and/or fingerprints intermixed in the FBI files with those of fugitive criminals. (People who don't change their name and SS number, or merely make variations of the same

name are easily traced by checking records of motor vehicle license registrations and by searching the credit bureau files, all of whom sell their information for so much per inquiry.)

The FBI's NCIC (National Criminal Information Center) can spurt out — almost instantly — any of its 4.1 million stored records into state or city police terminals across the nation. The Computerized Criminal Histories (CCH), also called "rap sheets," maintain the records of 445,800 persons arrested for serious charges. They include persons who were arrested but never prosecuted; persons convicted who have long since "gone straight"; persons tried and found innocent and persons who might be likely suspects in current crimes. These records are used by many state and federal hiring and licensing agencies. It has been charged that in some states, they are given to credit bureaus, banks and private employers. An incorrect entry of an arrest not followed up to show acquittal or non-prosecution might plague an innocent person for life. There are over 6,000 state and local agencies plugged into the NCIC; and the number is expected to grow to 45,000 in the near future.

Good old Sam Ervin says, "If we learned anything in the last year of Watergate, it was that there must be limits upon what government can know about each of its citizens." Sam also says that the FBI gets 11,000 requests daily for arrest record information, many coming from non-law enforcement agencies for their employment records. He said the FBI has raw arrest data on about 10% of the population.

The FBI — by law — keeps every scrap of information given it, even information known to be false (*U.S. CODE, Title 44, Chapter 33*).

Until mid-1974, the GSA (General Services Administration) was planning to install a potential government-wide computer snoop network known as FEDNET. GSA wanted \$100 million to begin a national data bank on everyone in the country, but Senators Eagleton and Montoya blew the whistle. "It is ironic," Montoya said, "that the French president has abolished wiretapping in France, but that in the United States we have a hearing raising questions about a threat to American privacy which has come from the government itself."

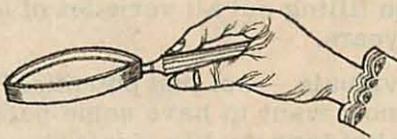
The Department of Defense continues to insist on permanent identification of drug abusers by means of code numbers (called SPN numbers) placed on discharge papers. The code is easy for anyone to obtain, hardly "confidential" as the DOD professes. Veterans with SPN numbers find themselves blackballed by just about ALL the so-called "equal opportunity" employers. How patriotic. . . .

The Internal Revenue Service catalogs everyone's tax returns by Social Security numbers. Presently, 48 states and the District of Columbia have "agreements of cooperation" with the IRS for the exchange of information about taxpayers.

The expanding use of automatic data processing equipment at both state and federal levels has sharply increased the amount and variety of information shared. Such is the interplay that an audit by the state tax collector can trigger one by the federal government as well. Now the states themselves are swapping information about tax returns. As of June, 1973, 21 states had signed a reciprocal exchange of information agreement designed by the Multi-state Tax Commission.

Wiretapping — legal and illegal — is used by virtually every law enforcement agency in the country.

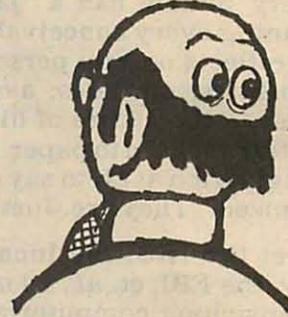
With microminiaturization, low-light photography, and parabolic microphones, people can no longer enjoy the feeling of physical privacy. Indeed, the concept of any kind of privacy at all becomes even more elusive with the advent of "psychological surveillance." New lie detecting techniques, personality tests, and noise frequency stress evaluators have begun to erode the privacy of individuals' emotions, opinions, and thoughts.



Over 500 thumbprint machines are now being used in the San Francisco area so that honest, upright citizens can cash checks. The "service" will soon be expanded to credit-card applications, sales slips, savings account withdrawals, and airplane tickets. Not long from now a computer reply might be, "He must be a criminal — we have no record of him."

The increasing use of Social Security numbers and the collection of credit information in data banks threatens an information tyranny that could lock every citizen into his past. The public fear of a "Big Brother" system, in effect a pervasive network of intelligence dossiers, focuses on the computer. But it also includes other marvels of twentieth century engineering such as the telephone tap, the wireless microphone, the automatic surveillance camera, and the rest of the modern investigator's equipment.

More and more, then, personal information is finding its way into giant computer files and from there to be sold and cross-referenced as the market demands. The private individual has NO choice in the matter; protest is useless. The file only grows fatter. The "name" he thought was his has been covertly converted into a coded sequence of key punches, letters and numbers. If tangible evidence of that person's reality is needed, a print-out card invariably issues forth proclaiming defiantly, "DO NOT FOLD, SPINDLE, OR MUTILATE."



Everywhere one goes, to prove he's "somebody," he has to present the appropriate document or card which says he actually is that person. His "identification," or ID, makes him that person! Amazing, right? Perhaps, but consider this:

If you were to be dropped off in a distant town where no one knew you by name, just how could you go about establishing your identity without producing at least a card or document from some recognized source? It wouldn't be easy. If you had NO such ID, you would more than likely be escorted to the nearest police station and questioned rather closely about why you didn't possess the proper paper. The authorities might even find a few stray charges to pin on such a "suspicious" character. Don't laugh; it happens every hour of the day. And all for the want of the right piece of paper. Your ID is your freedom! Prove who you are!

A certain "David Williams" recently spent 47 days in the Baltimore County jug on vagrancy charges when he "couldn't remember his name." He apparently had no money, no place to go, and NO IDENTIFICATION. This was after he had already spent 38 days in Spring Grove State Hospital for psychiatric evaluation. That's almost 90 days for no ID!

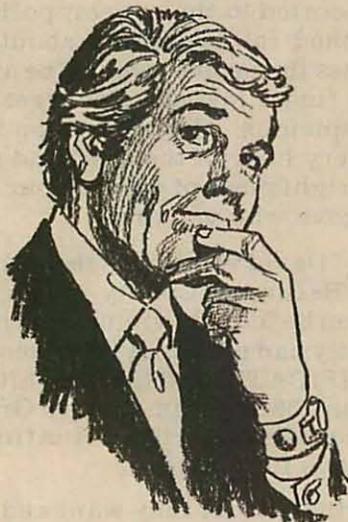
But, give them what they want and the questions cease; all doubts are settled. Produce the little card and you're on your way. That's because the card, the ID, is you! Get this straight: You aren't you anymore! YOU ARE A NUMBER, A NAME ON A CARD, AND NOTHING MORE!

American society is no longer a "people" society; it is a "paper" society. Thanks to the marvels of our computerized bureaucracies, most of America's human animals have at last been corralled into indexes, card files and pigeonholes. There's no need for the person; just look up his file; check his account; or call the "bureau." Any bureau. It makes no difference; they've ALL got your number! This isn't being cynical, either. Although it's not yet fully recognized, the computerization of human beings is a cancerous reality . . . today!

In prisons, every inmate has a "jacket," a central file containing every conceivable bit of information that reflects on him personally — his activities, abilities, attitudes, associates, criminal record, even the nature of his family life. He is completely reduced to paper. It's not a stretch of the imagination at all to say convicts become "dehumanized." They are. Just ask one.

But, friends, let the IRS, the local credit bureau, the Army, the FBI, *et. al., ad nauseam*, continue their capricious computerization of all that was once individual and personal and there most assuredly will no longer be individuals. Every "free" citizen will then have a "jacket." No longer will it be necessary to go to prison to become dehumanized. It will happen automatically.

Thus, the process of dehumanization proceeds by perceptible degrees to that prophetic instant at which "No man might buy or sell except he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" ("Book of Revelations").



We needn't belabor the point. America is already a paper society. Its people are pieces of paper. People aren't people anymore. But what does this mean? Well, if one is set on who he thinks he is, such thoughts tend to shrivel the

ego. After a little reflection, however, he should realize that the old ego wasn't such a big thing anyway. So what if the ego dies! What's left is better: A warm body that a few pieces of paper claim is some kind of "you." The *paper* says who you are, not you, remember? The ego that went with the paper has vanished; but the warm body "you" hasn't.

Actually, of course, you *do* know who you are; but you don't want the paper telling you who you are. The solution? The Paper Trip! YOU obtain the paper for the new "you." Be anybody you want! And do it yourself! No problem. Good old American self-reliance, right? Rugged individualism, too! Be the captain of your own soul. Go where you want to go. Do what you want to do. And, BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE!!

However, before you launch the search for your destiny, you need to be aware of some of the types of paper profiles maintained on you — and possibly on any new identity you might become. You also need to know how the information is disseminated. Here's a little basic information:

## SELF-CONTROL

The impact of institutionalized Data Collection is currently being felt by all levels of society. Horror stories about "mistakes" and misuse of information have been a sobering slap in the face for the "average" American, who has been filling out all varieties of forms docilely for years.

Many individuals — not just potential Paper Trippers — now want to have some personal control of the kind and quality of data circulated about them through the nation's computer systems. Like the experienced Tripper, the "average citizen" discovers that *the primary source of information is the individual himself*. It is the individual who lists his Social Security number, address and telephone number, personal references, bank account number, educational background, and medical history. It is the individual who supplies the data which filters through the files of society's most active data-disseminators:

- Motor Vehicle Bureaus
- Regulatory or Licensing Agencies
- Educational Institutions
- Credit Bureaus
- Health Service Agencies
- Insurance Companies
- Oil Companies
- Law Enforcement Agencies

Those people who are confused about levels of responsibility can gain a clearer picture of the data dilemma from the following chart. According to John M. Carroll (author of *CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SOURCES: PUBLIC & PRIVATE*), these statistics demonstrate the data-gatherers' preferences in obtaining and verifying information on the individual:

FREQUENCY OF USE	SOURCE OF INFORMATION
72%	<i>the Individual</i>
28%	<i>Medical Records</i>
25%	<i>Personal Records</i>
21%	<i>Former Employers</i>
18%	<i>Current Employer</i>
16%	<i>Educational Institutions</i>
10%	<i>Immediate Family</i>
8%	<i>Investigatory Credit-Reporting Agencies</i>
6%	<i>Private Investigators</i>
4%	<i>Police Records</i>
3%	<i>Public Records (Published Information)</i>
3%	<i>Neighbors</i>

These statistics indicate some startling situations in an era of increasing paranoia over data-gathering practices:

- There are three out of four chances that the references an individual lists will not be checked;
- Four chances in five job references will go unchecked;
- At least four chances in five schools will not be asked for verification; and
- Nineteen chances in twenty a criminal record can be successfully "disguised"!

In other words, potential employers and other data-snoops don't really check as thoroughly as they would like the public to believe. Of course, the degree of verification depends on the specific job or situation. Some jobs require only minimal investigation; others are more "sensitive," requiring more rigorous sleuthing. But, for the most part, employers and agencies do only a surface check, relying on scare tactics and basic guilt trips to keep the fearful, weak-kneed citizen honest and under control.

Most people are too "well-trained." Their minds have been so conditioned by the propa-

ganda pushed by society in general and the data monitors in particular that they do not even think of trying to outmaneuver these powers. However, a really "good actor" can pull off an interview without a hint of nervousness. With a steady eye and a firm voice, he will provide detailed and chronologically "accurate" information about his life. And he won't even flinch at scare tactics, such as remarks about the possible need for fingerprinting or bonding.

This person can present a calm and confident front because he knows how to protect his identity — and reputation — in a data-obsessed society. He knows which places to avoid and which to use when creating a new profile (or when safeguarding his original identity).

Names and other data appearing in certain places can add up to either a desired or a dreaded ID profile. Some sources of information which could prove "critical" — or very useful — to a healthy ID are:

- Newspapers and periodicals
- Directories (telephone, business, social, professional)
- Clipping services
- Vital statistics (public records at courthouses, municipal offices)
- Criminal records (readily available to private investigators and security officers)
- Motor vehicle records (usually easily available for a small fee)
- Information-gathering agencies (credit-reporting agencies, banks, loan companies, schools, utility companies, Social Security, etc.).



(For more practical information on protecting your identity and individuality, you might want to refer to *PRIVACY* from Eden Press.

This book provides solutions to the problems of maintaining a low profile, stepping into new roles and developing financial secrecy — \$18.95.)

## THE PERILOUS PHS

Some jobs, such as those requiring security clearance for access to "secret" information, stress the background investigation of applicants. One of the screening elements is usually the Personal History Statement (PHS), which includes:

- Personal History
- Marital History
- Residence History
- Citizenship History
- Availability
- Physical Data
- Educational History
- References
- Employment History
- Military History
- Foreign Travel History
- Court Record
- Credit Record
- Organization Memberships
- Family History

The purpose of this instant "autobiography" is to verify identity and to catch pretenders in any mistakes. To detect a "slip of the pen," interviewers are advised to have an applicant fill out as much information as possible at the office. Then, the applicant should be allowed to return home to gather any forgotten facts. Upon his return, he should be asked to fill out a completely new PHS — which can be cross-checked against his original statement.

This sneaky procedure is of interest to Paper Trippers in its revelation of high-level bureaucratic psychology. In the PHS, employers or officials look for chronological "gaps" which could indicate such stains on the reputation as a prison term, a stay in a mental hospital, or time spent in subversive activity. At the most refined level of investigation, evaluators look for these "danger signals":

1. Any inconsistencies!!;
2. "Dead Ends" indicating cover stories (i.e., references to firms now out of business, birth records from burned-down court-houses, prior residences on vacant or demolished areas);
3. A mail drop functioning as a "real address" (either a professional remail service or the address of parents or a friend);
4. A Post Office box without an accompanying residence address.

Yet, unless an evaluator discovers a possible problem on a PHS, authentication of data will probably end up being just a matter of standard procedure (obtaining documentary verification, interviewing prior employer, etc.). Cost delineates the boundaries of field investigation. Also, although some firms hire investigators, such duties usually are delegated to newly-hired security officers or are stacked on some harassed bureaucrat's workload as an additional task. Therefore, the amount of data supplied by the individual investigator's personal contacts will have a major bearing on the final evaluation.

However, the PHS has a "loophole" which causes evaluators to be less in terror of making mistakes. The last line of the PHS requires the applicant to state — under pain of immediate dismissal — that all the information listed is true, that the data provides a complete life-chronology. If the individual is hired and subsequently caught in any lies or wrongdoing, officials usually find it easier to nail him to the wall on the basis of falsification of the PHS than on the evidence of the need for an indictment.



## BATTLING THE MILITARY

Although military service records are classified as "CONFIDENTIAL" information, they are not exactly safeguarded like military secrets. Yet, they could reveal the "secrets" of a person's life — since a military record reflects almost all aspects of an individual's civilian life. Moreover, these records, full of personal information, are "permanent" — maintained for posterity on microfilm stored in archives.

A serviceman's record usually exists in two places: (1) at the "duty station" and (2) at the national defense headquarters. The file at the national headquarters is kept in two forms: one as a conventional manual jacket and another as computer data for use in personnel planning. The many parts which constitute the whole

service record are called "jackets." According to John Carroll, some of these important elements are:

**HEALTH RECORD** — This data is vital for justifying claims for veterans' or survivors' benefits. Thus, there is a lot of information swapping with the Veterans Administration. The file contains data on physical exams; waivers of claims of physical defects; Clinical Board action; admissions to hospital facilities; diagnostic, medical and/or surgical procedures; etc.

**PAY RECORD** — This includes all bureaucratic notations about military financial procedures involving the individual in question, including regular pay, pay increments, allowances for dependents and travel, and all types of deductions covering everything from income tax and insurance to lost time or non-performance of duty due to imprisonment. A person can obtain an abstract of his pay record. These copies are usually required in order to substantiate a request for adjustment of a veteran's property assessment.

**LEAVE RECORDS** — This is a chronological tabulation of annual leave earned, leave taken and whether or not chargeable against annual leave. This also includes addresses listed while on leave.

**RECORD OF INSTRUCTION** — This file lists the name and location of each military school, college or correspondence school; the subjects taken; hours of instruction; dates; and grades.

**ENLISTMENT RECORD** — This data (taken at the time of enlistment) is comparable to any application for federal employment. It includes "emergency information" (such as next of kin), a qualifications questionnaire, and any test results.



**CORRESPONDENCE JACKET** — This includes any official letters, endorsements, changes in rank, and court or review board actions.

**QUALIFICATION RECORD** — The Personnel Evaluation Report is a fitness report filed by the commanding officer and signed by both the reporter and the subject. In its written form, the report allows for many subjective judgments and recommendations. In its computerized form, it contains this data:

**IDENTITY:** Name, rank, date of rank, designator, branch, prior service.

**PAY:** Date obligated service expires, date of next longevity, amount of next longevity, dependency allowance, additional payments.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Physical limitations, rotation date, race, sex, languages spoken, DOB, place of acceptance, residence.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** 1st job code, date qualified; 2nd job code, date qualified; occupation code, dictionary of occupational titles entry.

**PRESENT POSTING:** Date received, duty status, military appropriation number, date attached.

**LAST POSTING:** Received from, authority.

**NEXT POSTING:** Transferred to, authority.



**CHRONOLOGICAL SERVICE RECORD** — This file is exactly what its title implies. Each line entry includes: change code, station or unit, rank, job code, months of duty (whether or not it's overseas), rating of proficiency (out of 4.0), conduct rating, and leave taken.

**DISCHARGE** — The types of discharge certificates are:

a. **DISHONORABLE** (yellow) — Awarded by a general court martial, usually subsequent to a term of imprisonment, marking holder as a felon.

b. **BAD CONDUCT** (blue) — Awarded as a punitive measure, marking holder as a "miscreant."

c. **UNDESIRABLE** (white) — Issued as an administrative measure, indicating that the holder is unlikely to ever become a satisfactory service-person.

d. **CLEMENCY** — The holder, formerly possessing an undesirable discharge, has "rehabilitated" himself by performing some "alternative" service.

e. **GENERAL** — Mildest form of "less-than-honorable" separation. (Often given in cases of under-age enlistment.)

f. UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS — Through no fault of his own, the holder was unable to carry out his responsibilities.

g. HONORABLE — “Awarded as a Testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service.”

On the reverse side, the discharge may provide information on: place of discharge and authority, serial number, date and place of birth, date of entry, highest rank, abstract of service and medals awarded. Evidence of special payments made in the Defense Department or the VA may be stamped on the back.

At the time of discharge, a serviceman also receives a notice of separation — the DD-214. This form verifies citizenship, describes the holder, and lists selective service data. Official advice is that neither the discharge certificate nor the notice of separation should be accepted as proof of identity or a reference without the other. Authorities also suggest that suspicious photostat copies should be checked for a page and liber (book) number, the county clerk's signature and a raised seal. The county clerk can be called for verification; and the individual can be requested to obtain a Transcript of Service and have it sent to your address.

However, the problem with the maintenance of all these records containing confidential information is that there seems to be no detailed rules for the disclosure of data. Dissemination procedures are based on vague “need-to-know” priorities. Requests for copies of records by a veteran's dependents or survivors usually requires documentary evidence of the relationship and of the veteran's inability to make the request himself (i.e. marriage license, death certificate, etc.).



## SEARCH FOR TOMORROW

SEARCH (System for Electronic Analysis and Retrieval of Criminal Histories) demonstrates a trend in law enforcement organizational procedure. Originated by the LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) in 1969, the project's objective was to provide the nation with a model computerized criminal justice information system for the exchange of criminal histories and the pooling of statistical information. In 1972, Project SEARCH provided

evidence of law enforcement's technological ambitions by experimenting with the transmission of fingerprints from coast to coast via a communications satellite. In 1974, Project SEARCH became a non-profit corporation called Search Group, Inc. (with headquarters in Sacramento, CA).

The importance of this project is its indication of law enforcement's growing interest in a national criminal justice telecommunications system. Although this calls forth Orwellian visions of complete computer control and satellite surveillance, the true responsibility for “input” and any capacity for damage or abuse rests with the local level of law enforcement. According to Donald E. Santarelli, former Administrator of the LEAA, “The overwhelming majority of criminal justice data resides at the local level. The great bulk of law enforcement communications today — and tomorrow — are and will be local, state to state, and between locals and states.”

## KEEP 'EM IN THE DARK

Many government officials would like to keep the ponderous and mysterious workings of the bureaucracy a secret from the general public. More specifically, federal agencies would like to slam shut the door to accountability that the Freedom of Information Act has begun to wedge open. A primary illustration of this attitude is FBI Director William H. Webster's opposition to the FOIA.

Webster has proposed a 10-year moratorium on the disclosure of material from the FBI's investigative files. In a recent speech to the Advertising Club of Baltimore, he said that the FOIA hindered the FBI's “absolutely essential” exchange of information with state, local and federal law enforcement agencies. And, even more importantly, the law scares off “sources,” he says. Some convicts play a “let's identify the informants” game by filing for information. Also, since the FOIA requires federal agencies to provide the public with access to the data gathered, the agencies must respond to requests within specified time periods. However, the massive number of requests received to date has caused many to miss deadlines, Webster explains.

“These are legitimate concerns,” according to a *Los Angeles Times* editorial. “The protection of confidential sources is essential to law enforcement. . . . (Yet,) information about government is vital to self-rule, and the Freedom of Information Act was designed to open more doors in the vast labyrinth of the bureaucracy. There is no contradiction between open govern-

ment and necessary confidentiality — such as the protection of law-enforcement informants — but the areas of secrecy must be defined cautiously.”

## BE ALERT!

Some job interviewers don't always follow the letter of the law when trying to elicit information from applicants. Therefore, the individual must learn to protect his or her own "paper profile." And the main defense is some basic knowledge. This is especially true for women, who may be asked some discriminatory and personal questions, such as whether or not she plans to have a baby in the future, etc.

The syndicated column — "DEAR ABBY" — published this list of "do's and don'ts" for job interviews. Some questions may not be asked prior to hiring because the law forbids them. Other questions — although not prohibited by law — might be the basis for legal action at a later time.

### QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD NOT BE ASKED:

- What is your age?
- What is your date of birth?
- Do you have children? If so, how old are they?
- What is your race?
- What church do you attend?
- Are you married, divorced, separated, widowed or single?
- Have you ever been arrested?
- What kind of military discharge do you have?
- To what clubs or organizations do you belong?
- Do you rent or own your own home?
- What does your wife (husband) do?
- Who lives in your household?
- Have your wages ever been attached or garnished?
- What was your maiden name (in interviews with female applicants)?

### QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE ASKED:

- How many years experience do you have?
- (To a housewife) Why do you want to return to work?
- What are your career goals?
- Who have been your prior employers?

- Why did you leave your previous job?
- Are you a veteran? Did the military provide you with job-related experience?
- If you have no phone, where can we reach you?
- What languages do you speak fluently?
- Can you do extensive traveling?
- Who recommended you to us?
- What did you like, or dislike, about your previous jobs?
- What is your educational background? What schools did you attend?
- What do you think are your strong points? Weaknesses?
- Do you have any objection if we check with your former employer for references?

## THE FUTURE?

The entire world is plugging into computer consciousness. There is "widespread anxiety about the threat to civil liberty posed by number-crunchers and their technological toys," according to *The Economist* (London). For example, Britain faces many of the same indications of imminent "Big Brotherism" the United States is presently battling: invasion of privacy, computer crime, data-pooling, and the ominous universal identity code.

Although Britain has not formulated any specific policy statements, a government committee has prepared a report on the problem and drawn up a job description for a data protection authority (which the British government proposed in 1975 as a watchdog for both the public and private sectors). However, "Britain has lagged behind other Western countries and is in some risk of becoming an offshore data haven for material too sensitive for foreign firms to store in their own countries," says *The Economist*.



## XII.

# THE PHYSICAL ID DETOUR

*It is the man who is cool and collected,  
who is master of his countenance, his  
voice, his actions, his gestures, —  
of every part, who can work upon others  
at his pleasure.*

—Denis Diderot

Physical appearance and behavior are strong indicators of identity. They also play a large part in convincing others that you are comfortable with yourself — that you really are who and what you say you are. Here are some important elements of this form of identification:

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These aspects of physical description are commonly used to identify an individual:

- Ethnic Data
- Sex
- Height
- Weight
- Build
- Head Shape
- Face Shape
- Complexion
- Hair
- Facial Hair
- Eyes
- Eyebrows
- Nose
- Mouth
- Chin
- Ears
- Scars
- Deformities
- Blood Type
- Physical Defects that require doctor or hospital visits

Behavior can be analyzed for purposes of identification through the use of these ten commonly-accepted classifications:

- Speech Patterns
- Walk
- “Handedness” (left, right or ambidextrous)
- Habits

- Nervous Disorders
- Narcotics Use
- Alcohol Use
- Tobacco Use
- Sexual Behavior
- Mental Disorders

Whenever photographs are to be incorporated into your ID, consider the possibility of using complementary disguises and cosmetics. Each person has to decide this for himself, naturally; but a different appearance, just like a different signature, can underline dramatically the reality of a new “you.” Wigs, moustaches, sideburns, beards — or lack of them — are not to be neglected in this hairy age. Women are generally more adept at changing their physical appearance; and men should take hints. Many of the women’s magazines carry features on makeup and hair styling; and some cover this field exclusively. Hair color, skin tone (especially for the face), shape of nose, and hairiness of the eyebrows are certainly to be considered within the realm of changeability if a new person is to be created.

In making photos, be particularly cautious about your ears. Sideburns in front of, or partially covering, and long hair, either flowing over and hiding, or combed behind and forming a “background,” should be used to alter the appearance of the ears.

If you would like a little assistance with ideas for changing your appearance, you might refer to these books:

*METHODS OF DISGUISE*, by John Sample. Available from Eden Press, P.O. Box 8410, Fountain Valley, CA 92728, \$12.95.

*STAGE MAKEUP*, by Richardson Carson. Meridith Press, 250 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017, \$7.50.

Some may think lightly of these remarks; but the best actors use all of these tricks almost unconsciously, even to the point of developing distinct voices for each person. Anyone can develop at least one variation of his speech tone, accent, speed, pitch, and volume without

too much work. A little conscientious practice will put you in command of a new "vocal you." For business over the telephone, it will be your only ID, so don't overlook it. Practice your new style along with your signature and they will prove mutually reinforcing.

Basically, in changing your outward appearance, you must do only what still allows you to feel comfortable. Anything too outlandish will leave you insecure and open inevitably to closer scrutiny. Once you have your new self designed, you must project your entire being into it, just as an able actor would. Your *attitude* will give life to the new name and will carry you through any moments of doubt in other people's minds — or for that matter, in your own.

You ARE the new person, and never doubt it! If you don't, no one else will, either! Ask yourself, who else would you be if your weren't "you"? NO ONE BUT WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE, THAT'S WHO!! Why, you can even prove it: "Certainly, just check my ID. . . ."



## WRITE ON!

Another "indicator" of real identity is handwriting. This aspect of a person's development is physical evidence in the creation of an alternate ID. As such, it can function as either a plus or a minus in the sum-total of an individual's claims of identity — especially if these claims are double-checked. It is true that handwriting experts say they can detect certain personality quirks by analyzing a person's handwriting. However, they *cannot* prove that any one person wrote or signed any one name. Yet, compatible comparisons of an individual's handwriting cannot but help substantiate the authenticity of his ID.

Therefore, for each person you "create," you should use a different style of writing — not only for variety's sake, but also to remind yourself that you are that person. You must practice and practice until a second, third, or fourth style becomes natural and automatic. Vary the height of the letters, the loops, the style of capitals, the dots, writing pressure, the slant, the relative neatness, the roundness of the curves. . . . In short, change any and all elements you can think of that will facilitate the creation of a completely new signature. Practicing your own signature is best — using a different style for each name. Also, *always* practice the new name in only that style of writing. It will quickly become second-nature; and that is the way it must be.

There are twelve basic characteristics that handwriting experts use for purposes of identification:

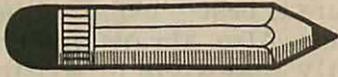
- Skill and ability
- Odd, that is, non-Palmer systems
- Line Quality (shaky, irregular, angular, smooth)
- Pen Pressure
- Pickup stroke on letters
- Connecting strokes between letters (smooth, angled or broken)
- Ending strokes on letters (blunt, horizontal or sweeping upward curve)
- Embellishments (beginning strokes of capitals, final strokes on "y," finish strokes of words)
- Sweeping curved strokes or angles
- Spacing between letters (wide or close)
- Alignment (height of letter above base writing line)
- Proportion (such as the tail on the "y")

The capital and small "t," the capital "F," and the small "y" frequently exhibit distinctive handwriting characteristics. The phrase — "Twenty-Five Dollars" — written several times can be very revealing.

An interesting footnote to a discussion of this subject is the Internal Revenue Service's interest in handwriting analysis. The IRS would like to retain the right to order people to provide supposedly self-incriminating samples of their handwriting. These samples can be compared with checks and other documents connected with financial transactions and taxable income, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. However, the Eighth Circuit has recently joined the Sixth and Second Circuits in denying this power to the IRS. (The Fourth Circuit has concluded that the agency can compel handwriting samples.) The appeals court has ruled that such an order "is a search and seizure." Therefore, the IRS, "clearly

subordinate" to the Fourth Amendment, cannot require handwriting samples unless given permission by the Congress or the Supreme Court. And that has not yet happened.

The IRS and other federal monitors are not the only groups interested in verifying handwriting used to authorize financial transactions. The private business sector — especially the security-conscious banks — are taking up handwriting analysis. . . .



SIGNATURE TECHNOLOGY, a Texas company, has produced a terminal with a visual display for use by tellers. It reads out current account status for checking, savings, mortgage, and loan information, and also reproduces the customer's signature for instant comparison. The screen is visible only to the teller. It is more than conceivable that an alarm button could be installed with the other access keys, so that would-be forgers will be spotted and possibly photographed within seconds of presenting a phony check. Twenty banks have already bought the basic computer unit; and the company has a backlog of over 500 units. These units will soon be popping up all over the place.

Also, an increasing number of business firms are showing an avid interest in handwriting analysis — or graphology — as an inexpensive personality test and honesty indicator. Proponents claim that graphology is a valid system of character evaluation: Every line, stroke, curve and flourish has a meaning because the brain directs the hand's movements — and, thus, the formation of letters and the spacing of lines. In Europe, 85% of all companies use graphology as a screening device for job applicants. In the United States, around 2,000 firms use graphologists — double the number of ten years ago. Although there is considerable evidence of the system's reliability and success, many companies still regard handwriting analysis as "superstitious nonsense" and "entrapment by penmanship."

## AVOIDING POLYGRAPH PANIC

*There are three kinds of lies:  
lies, damned lies, and statistics.*

*—Benjamin Disraeli*

Proponents of the polygraph boast about the impressive accuracy rate in the detection of "lies." Statistics — as well as paranoia — have prompted many businesses to rely on lie-detect-

tion tests to screen job applicants and discover dishonest employees. The standard polygraph test catches a "liar" in the act of "terminological inexactitude" by measuring the changes (usually an increase) in bloodpressure, respiration and skin conductivity (galvanic skin response) as a result of stress, according to *Psychology Today*.

However, recent studies demonstrate that training in biofeedback and autohypnosis can assist many individuals in outsmarting the polygraph. These tests indicate that people can learn to control the physiological signs of stress or arousal, according to psychiatrists James Corcoran and M. David Lewis. "This means that many industries which in the past have hired, threatened, and fired employees through that instrument no have longer a scientific basis for such action," Corcoran says.

*Psychology Today* predicts that this discovery could lead to the growth of nationwide chains of biofeedback or hypnosis schools offering quick cram courses to candidates for polygraph tests and exams by voice-stress analyzers.

## VOICE-STRESS ANALYZERS

For private use, the Psychological Stress Evaluator (PSE), the voice-only counterpart of the standard lie detector, is coming into widespread use. You can be checked without your knowledge, even over the phone (with a bootleg connection), or tape recordings can be run through the PSE at a later time. The cost of these units is around \$3,000; but the essential electronics can be duplicated for less than \$50. You can get all the details from Debter Counterintelligence and Security, Springfield, Virginia.

## SELF-INCRIMINATION

Voice identification, often important in such criminal cases as kidnapping, bomb threats and extortion, utilizes a spectogram (a printout of some of the factors supposed to uniquely identify the speaker). However, the quality of a "voiceprint" is not constant. It varies with changes in the atmosphere, the physical condition of the speaker and the quality of the recording equipment.

Some groups object to the use of voiceprints on the grounds that they constitute a violation of the Fifth Amendment's protection against self-incrimination. The American Civil Liberties Union, for example, is "against their use in court by the prosecution, but (they) wouldn't absolutely forbid their use by the defense. . . ."

You should be able to bring in anything at all to try and establish the client's innocence. We really dislike any machines. . . . They're basically self-incriminating and unreliable."



Happily, it appears to be back to the drawing board for voiceprint identification. Although some courts have allowed them as evidence, a June, 1974, ruling from a California appellate court held that their reliability was still unproven, particularly in the case of "mimicked or disguised voices." From all the judicial doubts raised in this decision (*People vs E.D. Law*), it's going to take our scientific snoopers quite a while to get back into court as "expert witnesses." the old handkerchief routine doesn't seem so funny anymore, nor does a thick foreign accent. . . . The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., has also ruled that voiceprints cannot be introduced as evidence in criminal trials: "Whatever its promise may be for the future, voiceprint identification is not sufficiently accepted by the scientific community as a whole to form a basis for a jury's determination of guilt or innocence." Now only courts in Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and two federal jurisdictions allow voiceprints. . . .

## BIG BROTHER'S BRANDING IRON

An electronic identification device called a "transponder" is now being tested on cattle. In the form of an implant under the animal's skin, it provides data (body temperature, ID number, etc.) when a plastic, gun-like mechanism called an "interrogator" is aimed at the implant. The Livestock Conservation Institute is sponsoring the research — which is aimed primarily at curtailing the activities of modern rustlers. Once the technology is perfected, however, there will be little difficulty in adapting it for use in mental hospitals, prisons, the military, Boy Scouts, and. . . .?

This electronic identification is a chilling reminder that 1984 arrived right on time. Inventions such as the transponder can only help complete Big Brother's ultimate round-up and registration of all us "dumb" animals. How comforting it will be to know we're all just "one of the herd."

*The total ultimate impact of all this managerial reliance upon psychological spies, lie detectors, hidden cameras, undercover agents, bugging, health reports, controls, police dogs, and fingerprinting is too appalling to contemplate.*

—Vance Oakley Packard



# XIII.

## A FAREWELL TO FINGERPRINTS?

*None are more hopelessly enslaved  
than those who falsely believe  
they are free.*

—Goethe

### “FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION”

Public law enforcement agencies and private security firms are promoting the increased, systematized use of fingerprint identification. They wave banners of “crime prevention” and call for the population to applaud the practice of “protective fingerprinting.” Their campaign philosophy — deceptively simple and soothing — is designed to appeal to man’s instinct for self-preservation: Instead of reflecting criminality, fingerprint ID is the mark of honesty. “Protective fingerprinting no more violates personal rights than submitting to preventive vaccination, supplying financial information to the Internal Revenue Service, or queuing up at airports in anti-hijack lines for an electronic frisk,” explains Mort Wesinger in his article “Your Fingerprints on File — Good or Bad?” (*Parade Magazine*).

Unfortunately, many individuals are easily swept along with this authoritative-sounding tide of rhetoric. Banks, businesses, and other money-makers wield this propaganda with skill and accuracy. People who ordinarily would not “lift a finger” to assist in the expansion of an exasperating bureaucracy often will succumb to the plea “to be a good citizen.” This fact has allowed fingerprint ID systems to exist — and even flourish — without much complaint. Besides the growing FBI files, some other examples of this trend are:

**CIVIL SERVICE** — In order to expose criminals attempting to blend into the crowd of job applicants, the Civil Service Commission requires fingerprinting.

**LEGAL PERMITS** — New York City requires applicants for liquor licenses, gun permits, hack drivers, etc., to agree to fingerprinting “for public protection.”

**SOLDIERS** — The government fingerprinted more than 30 million men for the military during World War II and the Vietnam war.

**EXAM CHEATERS** — Some public school systems require teachers taking the license exam to submit to fingerprinting. This is done to discourage cheating through the use of “ringers” (substitutes who take the test in place of the applicants).

**LEGAL DOCUMENTS** — A few innovative law firms advise clients to circumvent false claims and forgery by stamping their fingerprints on wills, deeds, conveyances, etc.

**ART AUTHENTICATION** — To foil counterfeiters, a famous sculptor “signs” her work with a registered fingerprint. Many museums are enthusiastically in favor of the idea.



**KIDNAP VICTIMS** — Because of the increase in kidnappings worldwide, many families “register” their prints with the FBI. Their reasoning is — in the event of such a crisis — identification can be verified easily and the authenticity of ransom notes can be determined quickly.

**ILLITERATE DEPOSITORS** — Some banks urge an illiterate customer (whose signature is an “X”) to provide fingerprints on his application form. This procedure supposedly will protect the individual from greedy relatives and friends who might get hold of his passbook.

**CONSUMER ID** — Identifier systems (fingerprint identification systems) are operating throughout the U.S. in department stores, banks, supermarkets, car rental agencies, airlines, hotels and motels.

**JURORS** — In some states, prospective grand jury members must be fingerprinted in order to screen out "criminals."

**PASSPORTS** — "I see no reason why it should not be mandatory for individuals to affix their fingerprints to their passports, just as they do their photographs. It would aid in breaking up the false passport racket, would prevent wanted criminals from fleeing the country and help curb international drug traffic," suggests New York Congressman Lester Wolff (chairman of the Special Subcommittee of the House on International Narcotics Control). Fingerprints are not (yet) required on applications for U.S. passports.

Thus, this trend reflects the use of fingerprint ID as both physical evidence and psychological deterrent. And, although the practice may not enjoy universal popularity, it is functioning. Strangely enough, voices crying in the wilderness for liberty and privacy are often drowned out by the familiar hum of the computer. We are slowly becoming conditioned to mass technology and data-sharing. As Marshall McLuan explains. . . .

*The medium, or process, of our time — technology — is reshaping and restructuring patterns of social interdependence and every aspect of our personal life. It is forcing us to reconsider and reevaluate practically every thought, every action, and every institution formerly taken for granted. Everything is changing — you, your family, your neighborhood, your education, your job, your government, your relation to "the others." And they're changing dramatically. . . .*

*Electric circuitry has overthrown the regime of "time" and "space" and pours upon us instantly and continuously the concerns of all other men. It has reconstituted dialogue on a global scale. Its message is Total Change, ending psychic, social, economic, and political parochialism. The old civic, state, and national groupings have become unworkable. Nothing can be further from the spirit of the new technology than "a place for everything and everything in its place." You can't go home again.*

## **PUTTING THE FINGER ON CRIMINALS**

Many freedom-fighters are a little "touchy" about the current trend in fingerprint identification. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), for example, is upset over a St. Mary, LA, law requiring workers to carry official ID cards and submit to FBI-fingerprint security

checks. The ACLU says the law is unconstitutional, and that it violates workers' privacy and freedom of movement.

This fear of registration and regimentation apparently is not shared by members of the St. Mary community. In reaction to the kidnap-murders of five teenagers, residents were on the verge of vigilantism — ready for any control of the flow of transient workers drifting through the Louisiana marshlands in search of offshore oil jobs. Most residents were pre-conditioned — mentally and emotionally — for the adoption of the controversial concept so dear to the hearts of "law and order" fanatics.



In order to qualify for the infamous ID card, workers must be photographed and have their fingerprints checked by the FBI and the local sheriff, according to the law passed by the St. Mary Parish Jury (county council). Only government-licensed agents are allowed to issue the cards. And, since bureaucracy always ends up costing money, workers have the honor of paying a \$10 fee for their own personal tangle of red tape.

Is all this paper shuffling of any benefit to the community? According to a spokesman for the St. Mary Parish sheriff's office: "I can't honestly say we've seen a drop in the crime rate. In fact, if anything, crime could be on the rise. The jail is still full of people. . . . But I'm not blaming the law for that. *It's certainly a help in identifying people.* It's just the economics of the area (that causes the crime)."

Thus, the law is of no positive value in the battle against crime. On the other hand, it has a definite negative value in the fight to preserve human rights. "This sort of police tactic is not only un-American, but unconstitutional," says ACLU attorney David Gelfand. "This is reminiscent of the kinds of identity cards seen in totalitarian regimes in Soviet Russia, Nazi Germany and, most recently, in South Africa."

## FBI PHILOSOPHY

Fingerprints hold a curious fascination for most law enforcement agencies — and, most especially, for the FBI. As the late J. Edgar Hoover put it: "A fingerprint flies faster and truer than a loftful of stoolpigeons in leading us to the man we want. These natal marks on his finger are his signature, an anatomical autograph which cannot be counterfeited nor disguised, nor rendered illegible by the mutations of time." This reverence for the powers of identification embodied by the divine digit has transformed the bureau into a devoted collector of any and all prints which could prove useful one day.

The bureau's interest does not focus solely upon criminals; it also includes potential troublemakers. To exemplify this basic FBI philosophy, consider the fact that — until California put an end to the practice in 1975 — the FBI requested the state Department of Motor Vehicles to routinely supply lists of names of persons who refused to submit to optional thumbprinting when applying for driver's licenses. According to a DMV spokesman: "The FBI asked us to supply names, and we did. There's nothing writing. I suppose the theory was that refusing a thumbprint obviously meant you had something to hide... I don't know what they (the FBI) did with them. But I know how these people are. They like to build up files on everybody who ever squeaked once."

However, the bureau said it had a definite reason for its request. "We asked for a sampling of applications where people did not submit to fingerprints to see if fugitives were trying to get false identification," explains FBI agent Paul Young. The program "didn't pan out" and was abandoned before California said it was thumbs down on future list requests. Yet, although there is no basis in law for supplying such lists, the DMV will cooperate with the FBI "in those instances where they are referring to specific cases and/or individuals," according to a DMV official.

## DIGIT DETECTION

Sherlock Holmes may have believed that he had sleuthing down to a science; but the FBI thinks it has the key to the technological intricacies of the detective business at its fingertips — or, rather, at the criminals' fingertips. With the aid of a computer, the FBI has the ability to read and match fingerprint cards with truly electronic speed. Matching prints used to be a lengthy and, consequently, costly process. Now, after an investment of 16 years and \$14

million, the bureau's 1963 "dream"-machine is an actuality.

This FBI vision of computerized splendor ultimately will encompass \$57-million-worth of equipment intended to systematize all fingerprint cards. The bureau expects to reach this Utopian summit by late 1980 — since 750,000 new cards are added annually to the current file of 14 million qualified computer candidates (those under the age of 55). This expensive paper-sorting system will prove to be an economical investment, according to the FBI. When the computer system is functioning, the bureau will be able to cut "a significant number" of employees from its ranks of 3,400 technicians and ID division workers. And, besides cutting the cost of manpower, the project will promote efficiency by responding to routine fingerprint checks within one day instead of five, agency spokesmen promise.



The system allows a computer unit — called a "finder" — to "read" a fingerprint with a television camera, picking up and recording the black and white contrasts (and 16 gray tones) at each .0002-inch interval on the print. The computer reads and classifies a print, translating its unique loops, arches, ridge endings and ridge directions into a long string of numbers stored in its memory. Supposedly, if a fingerprint is taken from the scene of a crime and fed to the computer, the information will be digested and translated into a number. Then, three minutes later, the print's number will be matched with a name in the computer's memory.

However, this system is not infallible. The numbers don't always match. A poor-quality print may "mislead" the computer. Also, even with carefully-made fingerprints, slight variations in inking and pressure will create different numbers. Thus, the bureau's preference for a Buck Rogers-type of technological bureaucracy often takes a back seat to the human touch of a little basic Sherlock Holmes deductive reasoning.

With the absence of an identical number for a print, the computer will produce several of the most nearly identical. Then the experts will compare a dozen or so prints. Even though it is

no longer a question of analyzing thousands of sets of prints, it does take an expert about fifteen minutes to compare two fingerprint sets. The manual process is too cumbersome and involved to be used routinely.

## RALPHIE THE SNITCH

Ralphie, the fingerprint expert, is a real soft touch about providing information for official data-seekers. "Ralphie" is the name of a computer currently being tested by the police in San Jose, CA. It utilizes pattern-recognizing machines which are able to swiftly compare fingerprints with the thousands of prints in police files. "Fingerprints are the strongest kind of evidence," as one police officer commented. But comparing prints isn't an easy task. In the past, it has taken human technicians months to match up fingerprints. Ralphie soon will be able to scan 17,000 prints in just minutes.

Since it was installed a short time ago, the computer has been able to identify eight criminals, including a rapist and an armed robber. In fact, Ralphie's success has prodded police in Minneapolis, New York, Canada, West Germany and the FBI to order similar computers. Ralphie is also affecting the banking industry. New York's Citibank and Morgan Trust Company have already installed similar computers to control employee access to sensitive bank data.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, this is how Ralphie works: *The operator inserts a latent print (invisible fingerprint found at the scene of the crime) into a device that enlarges it on a screen. She punches on a keyboard the pattern type (in this case, a whorl, or circular ridge core) and the suspect's approximate age, sex, race, hair color, height and weight. Then she uses a control to move an electronic pointer over the surface of the latent print, aligning it a dozen times with minutiae, the ridge endings or forks.*

*Next, she presses a button, and in a few seconds, a printer churns out 33 suspects from the total San Jose file, ranked in the order of probability that their minutiae match those of the latent print. The computer's first choice, is, in fact, the man whose latent print was tested. (A human fingerprint technician always makes the final comparison of file prints to those of a suspect.)*

## BIG BUSINESS GETS THE FINGER

The speedy, sophistication of identification by computer appeals not only to law enforcement agencies but also to business firms. Many

financial institutions regard the use of fingerprint ID as security insurance. New York's Citibank and Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. use such systems to monitor employees in restricted bank areas. The employee punches his ID number into a computer and then places his finger on a glass plate. The computer analyzes the fingerprint, comparing it with the print stored in the "memory." If the two prints match, then the door or gate to the area in question opens.

Banks also foresee the use of fingerprints to transfer funds by wire. As the *Wall Street Journal* explains: "A customer traveling to Europe to close a \$1 million deal could have his bank wire the money and his fingerprints, which would be translated into the computer's digital code. When the customer arrived in Europe, his prints would be compared with the wired prints, and he could pick up his \$1 million."

Soon, all financial transactions could be "signed" and authorized with only a fingerprint. Take Bank of America's "Thumb Signature Endorsement System" as an example and an omen. Indicator Corporation claims its system is clean, simple and safe: "You simply touch your thumb to the back of the check or other transaction slip (no ink, no mess). The teller processes the item with a special machine right there at the teller station. And the transaction is permanently endorsed with a 'signature' that cannot be forged — your own thumb pattern. This additional protection takes only a few seconds, and will only be used on those transactions most susceptible to fraud."

As more proof that the ordinary citizen is coming to be treated as an ordinary criminal, there is also the new "Touch Signature" system of fingerprint identification. Used by banks on both coasts, and increasingly by merchants who accept checks, this new "deterrent to fraud" is also invented by Indicator Co. The clerk uses a special stamp which leaves two oval imprints, one yellow and one orange, on any kind of document. The customer (criminal) is then asked to place the end of one finger first in the yellow oval and then in the orange one. No stain is left on the finger; the fingerprint is produced in the orange oval.

If you want to experiment with this fast-growing system, we suggest you get a sample unit (on your company letterhead, of course) direct from Indicator. Their address is 1150 Bayhill Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066. The stamp costs around \$30 in quantity; tell President Oscar R. Pieper that your firm will be ordering several hundred once you "test" it in operation. . . . We are quite sure any number of

chemicals (even light machine oil) could be used covertly at the time of printing, which would nullify any usable result. Any veteran of fingerprinting also knows that a pressing-twisting movement at the time of printing produces an absolutely useless print. Finally, since only one single print is taken, you "know" that it is not investigated, just filed — which it is. This new "Touch Signature" will not deter any good check artist, only slow down the amateurs. It will serve to remind us all that increasing invasions of our privacy are for our own "protection" . . . Haven't we heard this before?

At the expense of sounding bored to death over these so-called protective innovations, we point out once again that they will never stop the professional check artist, only the amateur. In the process, the straight world becomes even more accustomed to being "printed"; but then, every society in the world is probably composed of at least 90% sheep who wouldn't care how many times their fingerprints were taken, or for what purpose. An angry minority of us, then, must watch as yet another intrusion into our personal identity and privacy is "bonded" to some eternal record.

All a pro has to do to totally defeat any of these fingerprinting methods that do not involve police-type procedures is efface a telling part of the print. This can be done by carefully slicing off some of the ridges, deltas, loops, swirls, etc., with a good razor blade. Also, when the print is actually taken, he can press harder than necessary and the ridges will run into each other and cause a smudge or smear. The tellers officiating at these rites are never trained in the subtleties of fingerprinting, and wouldn't know a good print from a useless one, which is the kind a proper operator will leave behind — cooperatively, at that.

Finally, with regard to these innovative "safeguards," has anyone seen or heard any announcement that fraud and forgery have at last been eliminated. . . ?

Thus, this private financial market — providing the lure of millions of dollars — will encourage companies like Indicator to further develop and refine computer-identification processes. This may help the economy; but what of the impact on the individual? With all this data — continuously programmed, coded and stored — privacy rights are bound to suffer. Computer crime is already an established and growing problem. The possibility of theft, misuse or publication of sensitive or personal information is an ominous reality. Throughout the history of mankind, con artists, crooks and "original thinkers" have proved the old cliché of "where there's a will, there's a way." More-

over, various bureaucracies — intended to systematize and simplify recordkeeping — have grown more complicated, burdensome and vulnerable to abuse. Therefore, technology cannot guarantee security and simplicity for the data-weary individual. As George Bernard Shaw once cynically observed:

*Science is always wrong. It never solves a problem without creating ten more.*

## POINTS ON PRINTS

THE AUTHORITIES regard fingerprints as undisputed proof of identity. To ascertain identity, officials use (1) classification by the patterns of all ten fingers and (2) classification by single print. . .

Prints of all ten fingers are made whenever a person is booked on a criminal charge. "Ten-print" computer systems, used to classify and retrieve prints in massive files, are making the use of fingerprint ID verification even more popular with law enforcement, according to John Carroll. Some of the basic facts about fingerprints programmed into both human and mechanical disciples of the digit are listed below:

— There are five basic full fingerprint patterns:

Arch (A)  
Tented Arch (T)  
Radial Loop (R) — points to the thumb  
Ulnar Loop (U) — points to the little finger  
Whorl (W)  
(In cases of double loops, only the ascending loop is checked.)

— The 1,024 primary Henry classifications are numerical codes based on the location of each whorl pattern, summing the result and adding one:

little finger, 16  
ring finger, 8  
middle finger, 4  
index finger, 2  
thumb, 1

The primary classification appears as a fraction, with the right hand code number over the left hand code number. (For example, no whorls = 1/1, 10 whorls = 32/32.)

— The secondary Henry classification has more than one million subdivisions based on coding the patterns of the two index fingers (using only capital letters — A, T, R and U), and coding the patterns of the remaining fingers (using only the lower case letters — a, t and r). "A set of prints having all ulnar loops (the

single most common class) would have the primary and secondary classifications: 1U/1U. A set of prints having ulnar loops on both index fingers and arches on all other fingers would have the classification: 1aU3a/1aU3a," according to Carroll.

— Counting the number of ridges from the core to the nearest delta or by measuring the core-delta distance provides another sub-classification within the primary and secondary groups. Other classifications include: the perpendicular distance from the core to the crease (first metacarpus), the crease length (the unobstructed length of a line tangent to the top of the crease), and the angle between the core-delta line and the core-crease line.

— Single fingerprint classification is especially important for identifying latent prints from the scene of a crime and for allowing access to monitored areas at banks or government offices. Loops and whorls are the two major classifications.

— Loops consist of several concentric staples (recurring ridges). The area enclosed by the innermost staple is the core. Cores and staples can be classified by characteristics or minutiae (i.e., bars, bifurcations and islands). A code is determined by recording the type of core and the type of the two innermost staples.

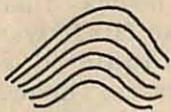
— A whorl is a spiral (classified as either "clockwise" or "counterclockwise"), with core characteristics which include dots, circles, dots within circles, and "nothing."

— For more detailed information on the subject, send for the Commerce Department's *NBS TECHNICAL NOTE 538: AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION* (for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 — SD Catalog No. C13.46:538 — 40 cents).

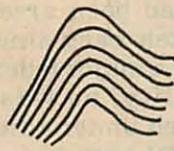
## FINAL POINTERS

If a previous criminal arrest or conviction has you stymied because your fingerprints are now on file, don't let it get to you. The FBI does keep fingerprint records on just about everybody (as this chapter has shown), and also assigns numbers based on those prints. But if your prints are altered, removed, or otherwise disguised, the bureau has no positive way of identifying you. The best solution to this problem, of course, is never to get busted again; but in this Everlasting Age of Hoover, more and more people are likely to have their fingerprints filed forever in the eternal archives of the FBI.

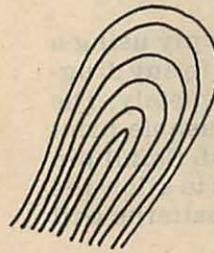
## FINGERPRINT CLASSIFICATION PATTERNS



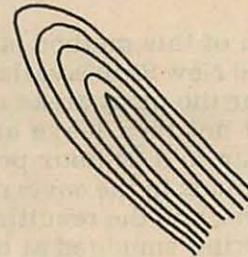
Arch



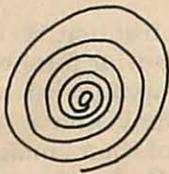
Tented Arch



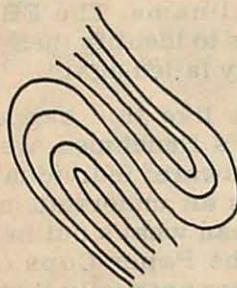
Radial Loop



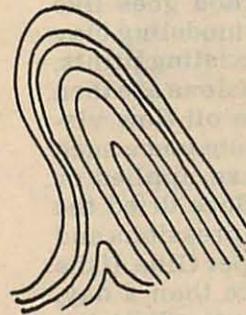
Ulnar Loop



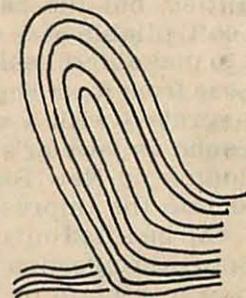
Whorl



Double Loop



Core and Delta



Core and Crease

To combat this problem, some people believe in taking drastic measures. They find a surgeon or doctor who can do a skin graft on their fingers and, thus, eliminate their concern over their old prints. A bit more dangerous method (which we do not recommend) is using an acid-etching process to efface prints. It looks rather terrible; but it does do the business on the old prints. Sulphuric acid works fine. Use clear running water to flush away the acid after each application. Remember, too, that the "burn" must get to the third layer of skin in order to change permanently the old print patterns. Incidentally, a physician will charge anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to do a decent skin graft. Experts advise shopping around.

Another trick is to find some liquid or spray that will congeal in the grooves and spaces of your prints, and thus provide misleading print information, according to one "authority." Lacquer bases (clear) are generally the best. Hair spray has been an old standby for years. Paint stores are full of possibilities. One of the products which has been used successfully is called Collodion. Available through most pharmacies, it can be applied to clean skin to form a covering; when it "tacks up" prints from the other hand can be rolled onto each fingertip, giving the prints of the left hand to the right hand, for example. Professional government spies have used this trick for years in order to leave prints intentionally, but prints which would not match any in the files. They would have used a surgeon's glove over the hand whose prints they did not want to leave (the hand whose prints had been switched to the other hand).

A variation of this method is simply using a product called New Skin, available in any drug-store, to cover the print areas completely. The surfaces will not then leave any usable print patterns for up to a 24-hour period. Small pin holes can be made in the coverings to allow the skin to breathe, and the resulting patterns will come out looking smudged at best.

Finally, the James Bond method deserves mention. This technique offers many variation possibilities, but the basic method goes like this: A soft, pliable base such as modeling clay is used to make impressions of existing prints, even those from toes. The impressions are then lightly sprayed with a very fine oil (low viscosity) such as jeweler's oil. A substance such as Collodion or New Skin is then applied or sprayed into the impressions. Once dried the "skins" can be lifted out of the impressions and glued onto the fingertips with Super Glue. If the prints are to remain on for more than a day, small pin holes should be made to allow the underlying skin to breathe, and at the same time

emit the oils necessary to leave a new "print"! Different prints can be stored for future use, and almost an infinite variety of arrangements can be achieved.

The FBI system of computer recognition "sees" prints only in a fixed order, starting with the little finger of the left hand and ending with the little finger of the right hand. If any of the prints are out of order, the computer will consider them to belong to a different, and as yet unknown, person. One of the beauties of the James Bond method is that the new prints are actually "inside-out" (reversed), and thus totally "new" to the computer, since the characters used for identification are taken from a diagonal path across each print. As we said, this method offers many possibilities. . .

Tattoos are another removal problem; and chances are that any place providing this service will also be able to help in print removal, too. Tattoos can also be "covered" with larger ones.



However, don't let the print problem bother you. The FBI is notoriously inefficient, depending mostly on snitches or busts that shouldn't have occurred in the first place. One source says he had been arrested three times before, prints taken each time, when he was finally popped on a major federal offense. His ID was of good quality; he was booked, indicted, and almost tried under a fictitious name. The judge and the FBI both knew he was using an alias (more than 30 different ones, actually), but still they couldn't *prove* who he really was. Only when the judge finally threatened him with a maximum sentence did he relent and divulge his real name. The FBI had three separate chances to identify their man; and on the fourth try, they failed again.

Cases like this happen so frequently that Hoover's Henchmen are a standing joke with many "aware" individuals. To say they're over-rated is an understatement. They know little more than what's put in front of them, making them the Paper Cops of the Paper Society. Prints are not really that bad a problem. Create beautiful ID and go your own way. . .

# XIV.

## EXPLORING TRENDS IN ID

*No one more easily deceives others  
than he who is accustomed and has the  
reputation never to deceive.*

—Francesco Guicciardini

### PUT YOUR PAPERS IN ORDER

“Do as I say, not as I do.” As this book has mentioned before, that’s an appropriate paternalistic slogan for Uncle Sam, who appears to cling to the advantage of a double standard. The government publicly bemoans the use of false identification. The Justice Department’s Federal Advisory Committee on False Identification has explored the possible use of a national ID card — allegedly the perfect solution to the problem of phony birth certificates, driver’s licenses, passports and credit cards which promote crime (i.e., fraud, infiltration of illegal aliens, smuggling, cashing bad checks, or simply buying liquor). But what of the government’s participation in such activities?

Although this trend may come as a shock to some citizens, the government does deal in false identification documents — all for the good of the country, you understand. This patriotic concern for the public good led to the now famous break-in of the office of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist in 1971. This is a good illustration because the wallets belonging to E. Howard Hunt and C. Gordon Liddy provided physical evidence of the federal preoccupation with alternate identity. The wallets contained false ID from: the Social Security Administration, State of Kansas Motor Vehicle Department, RCA Record Club, Bro-Dart Home Library Plan, National Rifle Association, New York Life Insurance Co., Wallachs Department Store, First National City Bank and Continental Insurance Co. Besides dramatic incidents like this, the government demonstrates approval for the use of false ID through the maintenance of the U.S. Marshals Service’s protection plan for witnesses; the plan provides relocation and the creation of new identities (complete with fictitious names and documents).

Now, some intelligent citizens — capable of putting two and two together — realize that the “Great ID Menace” might be substantially lessened if Uncle Sam would curb his own phony paper-pushing tendencies. However, government officials reply that the real threat to society comes from the *illegal* use of false ID, implying that the government — always pure and inviolate — possesses unquestionable motives. Thus, the debate hinges on semantics and definitions of terms. Yet, just because the motives are idealistic, it does not follow that measures taken to achieve these objectives are also shining and good. There is a question of “morality” for the government, just as there is for the citizens. President Carter’s emphasis on “human rights” shouldn’t be trotted out only for the media at news conferences and State of the Union addresses. Fred Graham’s comments in *THE ALIAS PROGRAM* about the witness relocation program also make a statement about federal use of false ID:



*The courts may be called upon to determine  
the extent of the government’s duties to its  
endangered witnesses; whether promising  
government witnesses new lives is fair to the*

persons they testify against; the rights of parents whose children are swallowed up into the program; and the government's obligation to citizens who are cheated, swindled, or robbed by relocated witnesses. . . . There will finally be criteria by which to calculate the costs of giving former criminals good names and infiltrating them back into society and to balance those costs against the accomplishments of the program.

The government must acknowledge the necessity of accountability. The public is becoming more and more aware of the truth found in the maxim by the Spanish author Fernando de Rojas: "We should believe only in deeds; words go for nothing everywhere."

## BORN AGAIN

Obviously, the federal Witness Protection Program poses a serious question of morality in its promotion of double standards: Government-sanctioned deception and use of false ID documents are acceptable; private maneuvers of this nature (even for "innocent" or "legal" purposes) are unacceptable.

Yet, the question of morality also appears in another aspect of the program: In order to entice potential participants, there is *official misrepresentation* of the new "name game's" true capabilities. Government lawyers and law enforcement officials pressure witnesses to testify and accept the program's "benefits." With all the zeal of an old-fashioned Southern evangelist, they sermonize on the topic of duty and tempt prospective witnesses with visions of a new life.

However, "Uncle Sam's Travelin' Salvation Show" — in the guise of the Witness Protection Program — does not necessarily deliver the "reborn" into paradise. The quality of the new life and the new identity is not always up to expectation. Many citizens regard the bureaucracy's abilities with shining faith rather than with a little healthy skepticism; and, consequently, they suffer. Most of the program's participants find that their new lifestyle is far from satisfactory. There are several reasons for this situation, as Fred Graham suggests in *THE ALIAS PROGRAM*:

**BASIC BUREAUCRATIC OBTUSENESS:** For the most part, federal officials are "technicians" — possessing varying levels of skill and education. Each must master his or her particular task (and subsequent share of paper work) in the mechanics of the bureaucracy. The knowledge of one task does not guarantee the ability to comprehend another specialized job.

Thus, Justice Department lawyers are not innately adept at creating false ID. And the U.S. Marshals Service, which must bear the burden of most of the work and protection of the newly-created identities, cannot provide inspired direction or advice. In fact, the lack of any strict hiring standards allows many unimaginative former cops and sheriff's deputies to become the sole guardians of witnesses' futures.

**THE COMPLEXITY OF A DATA-DEPENDENT SOCIETY:** Trying to function under an alias — especially under an "incomplete" ID — often restricts the individual to a low-income lifestyle. Success in terms of the middle-class American Dream requires a lot of paper: college degrees, medical and insurance records, credit references, bank records, etc. Thus, an alternate identity often necessitates true expertise and ingenuity. The government cannot provide the thoroughness required to cope with all of these bureaucratic intricacies. Therefore, many witnesses must settle for menial jobs and a lower standard of living.

**FEDERAL INDECISIVENESS:** Like the man who catches his clothing on the fence he is trying to climb, Uncle Sam is stuck, unable to move freely in either direction. While providing approval and financial backing for the Witness Protection Program, the government is "hung up" about trusting its witnesses (who often are criminals or so-called unsavory characters). The government wants to protect the witnesses; yet, it has a duty to protect the public. As a result of this dilemma, the government fails to create "foolproof" ID. The criminal is forced to re-enter society with a "bad" (incomplete) identity. Backed into a corner, he may have no choice but to lash out against innocent, unsuspecting citizens.

**THE FRONTIER TRADITION OF THE "NEW START":** The American tradition of honorably discarding one's past for a new and better life still thrives in the national consciousness. Therefore, citizens reject the idea of the Standard Universal Identifier (a single, numbered document establishing identity). This also accounts for the reluctance to base all paper work on Social Security number identification and to create a federal cross-index system of birth and death records.

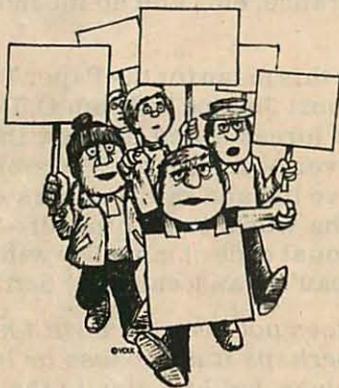
## "COVER CHARGES"

Another frightening trend is the government's use of mail covers. And because of a growing and vocal privacy-conscious segment of the population, the Postal Service's plan to reinstate the use of mail covers is being wrapped in protective, patriotic excuses of "national

security." A federal court has already ruled the practice unconstitutional, objecting to "national security" claims as too vague and ambiguous. Yet, the Postal Service soon will try to circumvent this decision by issuing four definitions of the phrase in question, according to an agency spokesman.

The problem with a mail cover is that it allows monitoring. It allows a postman (usually at the FBI's request) to record the names, addresses, postmarks and other data on envelopes addressed to or from persons "of interest" to the bureau, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. In the hands of an ambitious bureaucrat, this procedure could prove dangerous and damaging to innocent individuals. It might tempt "an overzealous public official" to monitor "unorthodox yet constitutionally protected political views," according to New Jersey District Court Judge Lawrence Whipple, who held that mail covers were legal in the investigation of a criminal act or the pursuit of a fugitive.

Because of this possibility, many critics of the practice concur with the view of Frank Askin, a general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. He says that the Postal Service is engaged "in an effort to circumvent by fiat a judicial decision they don't have the guts to take into (an appeals) court." Is this another example of the federal double standard, many concerned citizens ask? If the citizen must dot every "i" and cross every "t" where official federal laws and regulations are concerned, is it fair for the government to bend and reshape the letter of the law to suit itself?



Besides the double standard of the Witness Protection Program and the increase in monitoring through the use of mail covers, there is another controversial — and more well-known — trend back in the news: control and identification through mandatory military registration — the draft. . . .

## A CHILLING DRAFT FROM D.C.

As public debate rages on in the media, the Selective Service is quietly making practical plans to reinstate the draft, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. In recent months, according to published reports, provisional directors have been reappointed in every state with the purpose of reactivating community draft boards on a "standby" basis. Presumably, these boards would receive their directions from the Selective Service office in Washington, D.C., which is currently staffed by 98 persons employed on a "deep standby" basis.

Moreover, leaders of the "bring-back-the-draft" movement have proposed that new registration data be compiled from private information contained in Social Security, high school and other records, the ACLU reports. In that way, the government could devise a registration which requires no direct contact between the public and the bureaucracy. In other words, this society's data-gathering sophistication may allow a young person to be registered for the draft without even knowing it, *Privacy Journal* suggests.

Here's a plan quoted from a Congressional Budget Office report (*THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM: MOBILIZATION CAPABILITIES AND OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT*, Nov. 1978): *Rather than attempting to organize and conduct a face-to-face mass registration, Selective Service could rely upon existing computerized lists to form a registration data base. For example, it appears technically feasible to merge Social Security and Internal Revenue Service taxpayer files to produce a current address list for up to 85% of all 20-year-old males. The Social Security Administration and Internal Revenue Service already have a major tape exchange program in effect; and they estimate it would take about three to five days to merge the files to obtain a registrant list with the necessary personal data, such as birth date and sex, from the Social Security Administration and current addresses from the IRS.*

There are difficulties with this approach: frequent changes of address, youths who don't work (and, thus, do not have a Social Security card), not to mention IRS Code and Privacy Act prohibitions against data exchanges. Therefore, the report suggests that the Selective Service raid the files of each state department of motor vehicles to obtain computerized lists of young drivers, if the states update their addresses more efficiently, *Privacy Journal* reports.

However, "the use of computerized data for a purpose entirely different from the purpose for

which it was compiled poses a massive threat to individual privacy," says David Landau, staff counsel for the Washington office of the American Civil Liberties Union.

## PAPERWEIGHT

*Never confide your secrets to paper;  
it is like throwing a stone in the air,  
you do not know where it may fall.*

—Pedro Calderon de la Barca

Thus, as the previous sections have shown, the great weight of validity and acceptability carried by official paperwork is truly staggering. If the data is untruthful or inaccurate, the burden of proof is always on the dissenting individual. And, sometimes, that burden is just too ponderous an impediment to remove. That is one of the reasons why people are becoming so conscious of privacy rights and the need for accountability in data-gathering.

The privacy issue is a complex problem. There is no final, universally-accepted working definition of "privacy." One popular meaning is: "Privacy is the right to be left alone." Jerry Rosenberg, author of *THE DEATH OF PRIVACY* (Random House, 1969), defines the term as "the right to determine how, when, and to what extent data about oneself are released to another person."

This problem with precise definition leads to the problem of distinguishing between the issues of privacy, confidentiality, secrecy, freedom of information and security, according to "information scientist" John M. Carroll, author of *CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SOURCES: PUBLIC & PRIVATE* (Security World Publishing Co., Inc., 1975). Carroll maintains that the difficulty in delineating the separate issues leads to confusion and frustration. Data can be classified as either a public concern or a private concern. This is where proper use or non-use of information enters the picture. Carroll sums up the dilemma concisely:

	USE	NON-USE
PUBLIC	Freedom of Information	Secrecy
PRIVATE	Confidentiality	Privacy

Although the delineations may seem obvious, the boundaries of freedom are being contested continually. The paper war rages on. Primarily, the fight is between data-gatherers, who claim to be pursuing "the public good," and individual citizens, who claim the right to "privileged information." Data-seekers' actions — espe-

cially those of the "official" variety (law enforcement, for example) — often are "covered" by an arsenal of warrants and subpoenas. They also possess such concealed weapons as electronic surveillance equipment and wire-taps.

The individual, on the other hand, is almost defenseless. Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination is limited (modified by guarantees of immunity). And, although the sanctity of wife-husband and lawyer-client relationships is recognized, "there is as yet no such thing as medical privilege, psychological privilege, journalistic privilege, or even 'the seal of the confessional,'" says Carroll.

Even sealed records (in cases of adoption, pardoned criminals, and certain judicial actions) do not kill off officially documented information. The data lives on. The information can even be discussed. "Sealed" just means that the paper of legal proof — birth certificate, certificate of conviction, etc. — cannot be used in court; and witnesses can deny involvement or occurrence of the event without fear of perjury charges.

Looking beyond the current battle, some optimistic pacifists and data experts call for peaceful co-existence (and even balance) between privacy and freedom. However, this utopian dream does not always survive in the light of day as a workable equation. For example, Sweden's free and open society supports a computer system which provides public access to each individual's address (whether he has a telephone or not). Bulgaria, on the other hand, is a restricted and monitored Soviet society. Yet, no personal information is required for medical care, auto insurance, etc.; and no income taxes are filed.

So, what does this mean for the Paper Tripper. As Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas observed: "The forces allied against the individual have never been greater." Therefore, in order to preserve life and sanity, a person must fight to mold the world to fit himself — to the extent his personal code of morality will allow. Consider Thoreau's transcendental battle cry:

*If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured and far away.*

There is need for caution, though. It is a mistake to underrate the "enemy." In the paper chase, the so-called bumbling bureaucrat can be the Paper Tripper's adversary. With massive computer systems and detailed data analysis capable of detecting amateurish ID maneuvers, the bureaucrat's pursuit may not always be that

of a paper tiger so much as that of a paper shredder.

## PHYSICAL VERIFICATION

Computer tapes and official forms are not the only menace threatening the individual's control over his own identity. Mechanical devices which evaluate some physical aspect of a person to verify identity are becoming increasingly popular. In fact, the "personal information market" will double from its \$390 million level in 1975 to more than \$700 million by 1984.



With the wondrous growth of digital, chemical, electronic and other technologies, we can look forward to the thrill of being thoroughly identified by these prominent 1984-style systems: "fingerprint matching and recognition by computer, signature recognition and voice recognition for entry into secure areas; sophisticated means for machine recognition of each person's body, based on distinct electronic, pneumatic and hydraulic signals that each body generates; and implanting a miniature transmitter in a person's body to emit a distinctive signal for the purpose of establishing identity and allowing an individual to enter the premises or qualify for a benefit," according to *Privacy Journal*.

If this mania for monitoring persists, soon we may not even be safe in our own homes from Big Brother's identification and intrusion tactics. In fact, some wealthier cities around the country (Huntington Beach, CA, for example) are currently debating whether to create a computerized, Big Brother-like file on every household in the city for use by the police department and city administrators. The city hall computer would be informed every time someone moves in or out of the city, or just across town, whether he owns any guns or has a police record, whether there are any police warrants for the person, possibly even the ages of residents and

how many dogs they have. Apartment owners may be required to report the identities of their tenants and when they move. The so-called "address file" will enable the police department to create futuristic "command and control systems" to reduce the response time on emergency calls and possibly save lives, so they say...

And so on and on it goes: the unrelenting trend toward total social control in what has traditionally been considered a "free" country. Even though it may be a few years before there's "a camera in every room," at some time every individual will have to decide for himself how much invasion of his privacy he can countenance.

Some individuals have already abandoned the System by practicing the survival methods (living off the land, nomadism, houseboating, free farming, etc.) so expertly expounded by writer/philosophers like William Kaysing in *HOW TO LIVE IN THE NEW AMERICA*.

However, those persons who have chosen to try and survive in the urban domain of Big Brother also have an alternative. They can utilize the methods outlined in *THE PAPER TRIP I* to achieve similar results: freedom from control and harassment. Those who practice this philosophy carry with them an option the System will never be able to control: the decision to DISAPPEAR.

THE END

is only the beginning...



"IT'S ONLY PAPER..."

## SAMPLE FORMS

On the following pages are illustrated samples of actual forms and documents encountered on the "paper trail." There is wide diversity in their design, reflecting to a large degree the lack of uniformity in the operations of vital records offices in the U.S.

CITY OF BUFFALO - DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS

### APPLICATION FOR BIRTH CERTIFICATE

PERSONAL CHECKS NOT ACCEPTED

Fee—Birth Record with Search \$2.00

Fee—Search - No Record Certification \$2.00

(Female-Maiden Name) .....19.....

NAME .....

BORN IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK ON .....  
(date of birth)

FATHER'S NAME .....

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME .....

TO BE USED FOR .....

SIGNED: .....

ADDRESS .....

Registrant     Parent     or Legal Representative of Registrant or Parent, if other specify.

.....

A simple "city" form used in Buffalo, New York, for applications for birth certificates. Very informal.

A much more detailed application used on the state level.

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Bureau of Vital Records**  
**Albany, N. Y. 12237**

**APPLICATION FOR A COPY OF A BIRTH RECORD**

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

FE: \$2.00 per copy

Make money order or check payable to NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. Please do not encash or stamp.

No fee is charged for a copy of a record to be used for school entrance, first working papers, or for eligibility determination for social welfare and veterans' benefits.

NAME (First) (Middle) (Last)			DATE OF BIRTH OR PERIOD TO BE COVERED BY SEARCH		
Hospital (if not hospital. Give street & number) PLACE OF BIRTH			(Village, town or city)		(County)
FATHER (First) (Middle) (Last)			MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (First) (Middle) (Last)		
NUMBER OF COPIES DESIRED	ENTER BIRTH NO. IF KNOWN		ENTER LOCAL REGISTRATION NO., IF KNOWN		
PURPOSE FOR WHICH RECORD IS REQUIRED CHECK ONE					
<input type="checkbox"/> Passport		<input type="checkbox"/> Working Papers		<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare Assistance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security		<input type="checkbox"/> School Entrance		<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran's Benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement		<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License		<input type="checkbox"/> Court Proceeding	
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment		<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage License		<input type="checkbox"/> Entrance Into Armed Forces	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____					

What is your relationship to person whose record is required? If self, state "self" \_\_\_\_\_

If attorney, give name and relationship of your agent to person whose record is required \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name and address where record should be sent

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete Form and Remit Fee**

STATE		CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH				LOCAL REGISTRATION	
FILE NUMBER		STATE OF CALIFORNIA—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH				DISTRICT AND CERTIFICATE NUMBER	
						7020 579	
THIS CHILD	1A. NAME OF CHILD—FIRST NAME	1B. MIDDLE NAME		1C. LAST NAME			
	2. SEX	3A. THIS BIRTH, SINGLE, TWIN, OR TRIPLET	3B. IF TWIN OR TRIPLET, THIS CHILD BORN 1ST, 2ND, 3RD,		4A. DATE OF BIRTH—MONTH, DAY, YEAR	4B. HOUR	
PLACE OF BIRTH	5A. PLACE OF BIRTH—NAME OF HOSPITAL			5B. STREET ADDRESS (GIVE STREET OR RURAL ADDRESS OR LOCATION. DO NOT USE P. O. BOX NUMBERS)			
	5C. CITY OR TOWN			5D. COUNTY			
MOTHER OF CHILD	6A. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER—FIRST NAME		6B. MIDDLE NAME		6C. LAST NAME		7. COLOR OR RACE OF MOTHER
	8. AGE OF MOTHER (AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH) YEARS	9. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)		10. MAILING ADDRESS OF MOTHER—IF DIFFERENT FROM USUAL RESIDENCE—FOR NOTIFICATION OF BIRTH			
USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER (WHERE DOES MOTHER LIVE?)	11A. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER—STREET ADDRESS (GIVE STREET OR RURAL ADDRESS OR LOCATION)			11B. IF INSIDE CITY CORPORATE LIMITS		IF OUTSIDE CITY CORPORATE LIMITS	
	11C. CITY OR TOWN			11D. COUNTY		11E. STATE	
FATHER OF CHILD	12A. NAME OF FATHER—FIRST NAME		12B. MIDDLE NAME		12C. LAST NAME		13. COLOR OR RACE OF FATHER
	14. AGE OF FATHER (AT TIME OF THIS BIRTH) YEARS	15. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)		16A. PRESENT OR PAST OCCUPATION		16B. KIND OF INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS	
INFORMANT'S CERTIFICATION	I HAVE REVIEWED THE ABOVE STATED INFORMATION AND HEREBY CERTIFY THAT IT IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.			17A. PARENT OR OTHER INFORMANT—SIGNATURE (BY OTHER THAN PARENT, SPECIFY)		17B. DATE SIGNED BY INFORMANT	
ATTENDANT'S CERTIFICATION	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED THIS BIRTH AND THAT THE CHILD WAS BORN ALIVE AT THE HOUR, DATE AND PLACE STATED ABOVE.			18A. PHYSICIAN (OR OTHER PERSON WHO ATTENDED THIS BIRTH) SIGNATURE—DEGREE OR TITLE		18B. ADDRESS	
REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATION	19. DATE ON WHICH NAME ADDED BY SUPPLEMENTAL NAME REPORT			20. LOCAL REGISTRAR—SIGNATURE		21. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR	

This is a sample of "cross-referencing." The recorded birth certificate of a deceased person has been marked "DECEASED." Certified copies of this particular birth certificate will come back marked "DECEASED," as well. To date, this form of cross-referencing has

occurred almost exclusively at the county level only. This means that the birth and death both occurred in the same county, and were thus easily "cross-referenced" by the County Recorder.

# THE PAPER TRIP I



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