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"WIGGLE SEAT" which subjects an unsuspecting subject to a detector test, has been revealed as one of the latest investigative gadgets being developed. The sponsor of this sly kind of lie detector is the Central Intelligence Agency, according to U.S. Senator Sam J. Ervin, who thinks polygraph tests are far from infallible and who refers to them as a form of "20th Century witchcraft."

Unfortunately, the "wiggle chair" is only one of a host of electronic spooks being devised to haunt 20th century Americans. In a recently published study entitled, "Privacy and Freedom," Professor Alan F. Westin of Columbia University reports on the rapidly expanding technology of modern scientific surveillance and warns of the growing threats from unauthorized official and unofficial intrusion into every area of the citizen's life.

In his report, sponsored by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and supported by grants from the Carnegie Corporation, Mr. Westin surveys three broad areas in which the "classic American equilibrium" between privacy, disclosure and surveillance is being upset:

► By physical surveillance—the observation, through secreted seeing or listening devices, of a person's movements, acts, speech or private writing without his knowledge or control. (For example, Mr. Westin predicts an electronic device which can be suspended in the air over a sights and sounds in the whole area. Yet such a pervasive snooping device would not violate any existing law.)

► By psychological surveillance—the use of oral or written tests, devices or substances to extract from an individual information that he gives unwillingly or unwittingly. (Lie detector tests, often given by in-

port testers, have sharply expanded
► By data surveillance—the collection, exchange and manipulation of information about individuals or groups by computers, which can threaten privacy by making too much data (much of it unsubstantiated) available to too many people. (A new laser-recording process makes it possible to put on a single 4,800-foot roll of computer tape and store for swift use, or misuse, 20 pages of typed information on every man, woman and child in the U.S.)

The menace to individual freedom and security is heightened by the fact that the new devices for prying are employed or favored by well-meaning law officers and social scientists who do not appreciate their ominous implications. Aside from the destruction of the last islands of privacy in the personal life and home of the individual, the new mechanisms for surveillance greatly enlarge opportunities for blacklisting and blackmail and for capricious prosecution and persecution.

Before the machine goes too far, we must impose—as Professor Westin makes clear—a broad range of official and private restraints to protect the integrity of the individual and prevent him from being subordinated completely to the will of the state or to the orthodoxies of a complacent and insensitive majority.

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