At present, the State has six major data service centers:

(1)   The Annapolis Data Center, operated by the Comptroller's Office;

(2)   The Baltimore Computer Utility, operated by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning;

(3)   The Public Safety Data Center, in Pikesville, operated by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;

(4)   The Department of Transportation Data Center, in Glen Burnie, operated by that Department;

(5)   The University of Maryland Data Centers, at various campuses, operated by the University; and

(6)   The State Colleges Data Center, in Towson, operated by the Board of Trustees of the State Colleges and Universities.

In addition to these major centers, there are a number of smaller units in various State agencies. Clearly, the system may be characterized as decentralized.

Coordination and control over the State's data processing system is currently authorized by Article 15A, Section 23B, of the Code, making the Secretary of Budget and Fiscal Planning after consultation with the Comptroller, responsible for planning and controlling data processing in State government*, and by Executive Order of the Governor, creating the ADP Management Review Board, to (1) provide guidance in the formulation and review of plans and policies for the development, acquisition, and utilization of State ADP resources, and (2) serve as an appellate body to resolve disputes between agencies with respect to the use of these resources.

House Bill 459 is the product of a great deal of effort by the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State Data Processing. It has generated an enormous amount of mail addressed to me, almost all of it from State agencies and departments which oppose the measure.

In its current form, I consider House Bill 459 to be neither the panacea nor the nightmare that the Subcommittee or the agencies consider it to be. Likewise, I am not automatically in favor of every proposal which would centralize the functional operation