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in the United States,
1948-1969**

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Postwar Productivity Trends in the United States, 1948-1969

by

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The George Washington University

ASSISTED by MAUDE R. PECH



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*(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926 and revised February 6, 1933,
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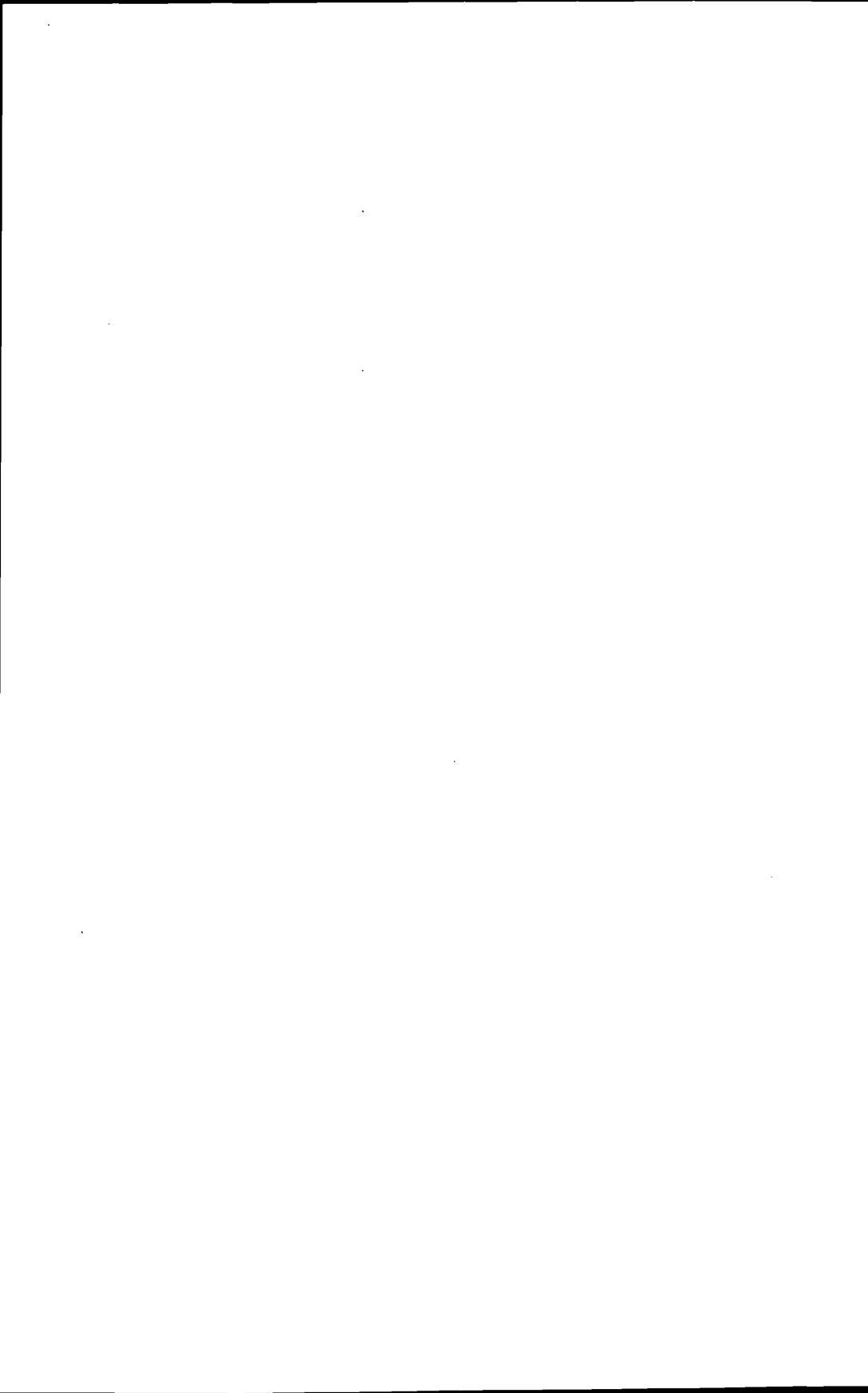
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It was Solomon Fabricant who, while Director of Research, invited me in 1965 to prepare a sequel to my earlier volume, *Productivity Trends in the United States*. Wide use had been made of the output, input, and productivity estimates contained in that monograph, and Fabricant felt the estimates and analysis should be updated and revised as necessary, with special attention paid to the post-World War II period.

I was encouraged to accept this assignment by the fact that Maude R. Pech was once again available to give me major assistance in preparing the estimates. By the time of her retirement in early 1969, Mrs. Pech had completed the extensive computations required to revise and extend the estimates contained in the earlier work, and I had written up the appendix notes on sources and methods. I am happy once again to recognize Mrs. Pech's contribution on the title page of the volume.

During the subsequent year and one-quarter I concentrated on analyzing the economy and industry productivity movements and relationships with associated variables, and on writing up the findings. In the statistical analysis, I was aided by my research assistants at The George Washington University: Yvonne Lethem, Ralph R. Young, and Hiwhoa Moon. At the National Bureau, Elizabeth Simpson Wehle helped in the final stages of manuscript preparation, Irving Forman did the chart work, and Hedy D. Jellinek edited the manuscript.

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This study has been financed from grants to the National Bureau by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Alex C. Walker Educational and Charitable Foundation for studies of productivity, employment, and price levels. We are most grateful for this support.

Our work on this volume has been made easier by the publication since 1962 of estimates by the Office of Business Economics¹ of real product originating in major industry groups of the economy. But government statistical agencies do not yet publish estimates of real capital stocks and inputs, man-hours worked, and partial and total factor productivity for the corresponding industry groupings—although now the Bureau of Labor Statistics does publish annual and quarterly real product-per-man-hour estimates for the private economy by three major sectors.

If complete industry estimates of inputs and productivity, as well as of real product, are eventually published on a regular basis by the federal statistical agencies, the need for yet another sequel to *Productivity Trends* will be obviated. We are glad to work ourselves out of specific jobs, in the best tradition of the National Bureau, by performing developmental work in economic statistics and encouraging governmental agencies to take over and maintain new series which have been proved feasible and useful. Since there is more than enough pioneering work in the realm of economic statistics and analysis remaining to be done, unemployment is but a remote worry for the economic researchers at NBER, and for the profession at large.

John W. Kendrick

¹Under a reorganization effective January 1, 1972, the OBE has been redesignated the Bureau of Economic Analysis in a new Social and Economic Statistics Administration. However, for the sake of continuity, it is referred to as OBE throughout this volume.

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