

LAST DECEMBER, C. Reinold Noyes, our Director who represents the American Economic Association, closed a report to his Association with these words: "Perhaps the most conspicuous development of the National Bureau's activities in recent years is the extent to which it is becoming a general center for cooperation in economic research. . . No longer can the National Bureau be credited with the whole 'productivity' in respect to the output that bears its imprint; neither can its own 'value product' be imputed solely on the basis of this output. It is becoming 'national' in deed as well as in name."

Our far-reaching obligations for collaboration of many kinds that prompted Mr. Noyes' comment cannot be acknowledged quantitatively. But the cover of this report indicates the distribution of the agencies and individuals from whom we receive active help, and we may be pardoned a few statistics on our statistics: In all, 287 institutions and 402 persons are collaborating with the National Bureau: 29 federal agencies represented by 93 individuals; 16 state agencies, represented by 21 individuals; 3 sections of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, represented by 7 individuals; 13 independent research agencies, represented by 18 individuals; 39 universities, represented by 98 individuals; 42 business associations, represented by 42 individuals; 145 firms, represented by 123 individuals.

COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Many of our collaborators have been drafted for jobs in the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense, the Office of Production Management, and the Bureau of the Budget. Some of our plans for expanding present projects or undertaking new ones have been impeded by demands on potential staff by the federal government. More calls of this character are to be expected, and it is our duty as individuals

and as an institution to respond to them. We can do so the more readily because the federal government has relieved the National Bureau of several tasks, besides cooperating with it on others.

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce is continuing the monthly estimates of consumer instalment credit that we prepared for 1929-38 with the aid of the Department itself and of the Russell Sage Foundation; also it has organized a new section to carry on and expand the estimates of capital formation and consumption that our staff began with the aid of the Social Science Research Council. Duncan McC. Holthausen, one of the three authors of our monograph, *The Volume of Consumer Instalment Credit, 1929-1938*, has joined the Credit Analysis Unit of the Marketing Research Division to assist Malcolm L. Merriam, Chief of the Unit and a fellow author of our monograph. W. H. Shaw, who has been working with Mr. Kuznets, spent half of his time in Washington the last twelve months setting up the Department section that will make continuous current estimates of national income in terms of commodities and services.

In November 1940 the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* announced that the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Bureau of Economic Research will collaborate in a thorough revision of American currency and banking data back to 1863, when the National Banking System was established.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, together with a WPA unit, is putting into form for analytic use the huge collection of wholesale price quotations that have accumulated during the past half century in the BLS files. A committee from the Conference on Price Research has been requested to give technical advice.

The Financial Research Program could not have been car-

ried on without the assistance of the Departments of the Treasury and of Commerce; Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Division of Statistical Standards, Bureau of the Budget; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Interstate Commerce Commission; Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Work Projects Administration.

Pooling of resources, public and private, corporate and individual, makes for economy of effort and funds, as well as more extensive and intensive research. That such numerous and diverse agencies are eager to contribute toward a common end implies a confidence for which we are grateful, and, what is vastly more important than our fortunes, a growing appreciation that policies are most likely to succeed when based upon knowledge of current conditions.

Business Cycles

LAST YEAR we reported the formation of a staff to prepare monographs on the cyclical behavior of various types of economic activity, utilizing the measures derived from the American, British, French, and German time series we have been collecting for a decade and that now number more than a thousand. During 1940 this staff was increased to fifteen by the accession of Thor Hultgren, Edward E. Lewis, and Lorie Tarshis. The latter two are Carnegie Associates. Busy upon their several monographs the staff members meet at frequent intervals to discuss common problems. The current work of this unit and plans for the near future are outlined on the ten following pages.

METHODS OF MEASURING CYCLICAL BEHAVIOR

We had hoped to publish this monograph, which is basic to the entire series of *Studies in Cyclical Behavior*, before the end of