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APPENDIX B

Recommendations and Suggestions Received From Statistical Agencies

The following proposals from agencies engaged in the collection or analysis of statistics—the operating statistical agencies—throw light on the administrative plans and problems of individual units as well as on more general aspects of statistical organization. They are presented substantially in the form in which they were submitted by the agencies. Some of these recommendations parallel or supplement our own recommendations, but listing here does not imply endorsement.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

This is the staff agency of the Department of Agriculture concerned with the collection, analysis, publication, and interpretation of agricultural statistics and other information pertaining to the agricultural sector of the national economy and its relation to the national and world economy. Its recommendations fall under three heads:

A Collection of Statistics

- 1) The interview method of collecting data from scientifically selected samples of adequate size should be regularly employed. This practice would provide a greatly improved foundation for State estimates and would give the research economist and rural sociologist a valid basis for subsampling in investigating agricultural processes. An adequate sample would furnish dependable answers to the questions 'how many' and 'how much'. By subsampling, specific segments of the population could be isolated for intensive investigation into the 'why' of agricultural processes.
- 2) Regular collection operations should be extended to include:

A large annual survey (in cooperation with the Census Bureau) concerned with fundamental economic conditions—crop acreages, land in farms, land utilization, farm population and the farm labor force, levels of living, number of livestock, farm and home equipment and facilities, irrigation.

Three quarterly subsample surveys to obtain data with a high

within-season variability (such as family and hired labor, wages, production of milk and eggs) and to develop and maintain on a national and regional basis adequate statistics of gross and net farm income, farm expenditures, nonfarm family income, indebtedness. The interviewers should be highly qualified and specially trained in the application of socio-psychological principles of interviewing.

Special mailed surveys of producers of specific commodities identified on the basis of information obtained from the large annual survey; special mailed surveys of the entire sample in lieu of or as supplements to mailed surveys now being made with uncontrolled samples.

'Flash' interview surveys to get quick results from a small sample on what farmers are thinking, and what they plan to do when exposed to forces beyond their control (economic, weather, socio-political).

Consumer surveys in urban and rural areas to aid in marketing agricultural products.

Periodic inquiries to farmers and dealers concerning prices received and paid by farmers for use in the parity indexes to supplement existing mail questionnaires when the latter are inadequate.

Further development of data on prices received by farmers "according to method of sale and position for use in connection with marketing agreement programs, and for other uses in market analysis."

Extension of the collection of data on what farmers pay, to include services used in family living and in production, and the reconstruction of the index of prices paid to represent more accurately the price changes in farm costs of production and living.

Listing of large volume specialty producers and conducting surveys of special crops. Statistics that have the poorest foundation of census and other enumerative data are those relating to vegetable, fruit, and specialty crops. Some of the most difficult problems of sampling and estimation are faced in these fields. If the problems are to be solved, it will be necessary to establish and maintain current lists of commercial producers of these crops, State by State, which could then be sampled by mail and interview methods, either singly or in combination, to provide a

sound basis for statistics on acreage, production, and marketings.

3) Research to improve methods of collecting data and making estimates should be expanded with a view to increasing the accuracy of estimates and reducing costs.

B Economic Research and Interpretation

These activities, which include economics of production, prices, income, marketing, farm population, and rural life, should be expanded:

Research on changes in technology on the farm and the associated reorganization required for most efficient production.

Studies of risk-bearing in agriculture to develop methods that will contribute to stabilizing production and incomes of farmers.

Studies on what factors are important in ascertaining prices received and paid and how the distribution process can be operated so that the farmer will realize the greatest possible net returns at given market prices.

Studies of parity prices and parity income to provide better measures for stabilizing prices and incomes of farmers at levels that will maintain needed agricultural production and ensure reasonably adequate returns to producers.

The classification of farms to advance understanding of farming problems and of the competitive position of family farms in American agriculture.

Studies of the income and relative efficiency of production on major groups of farms to determine the kind of adjustments required to achieve more efficient production and to define the conditions essential to these adjustments.

Studies of the relation of tenure and leasing arrangements to farm income and productive efficiency.

Studies of the interrelations between the health, education, productivity, and income of farmers.

Studies of the farm population and labor force, with primary emphasis on making estimates by states.

Studies of the levels and standards of living of farm families.

C Methodology and Personnel

1) Collaboration with university laboratories for the improvement of statistical methodology should be extended.

2) Collaboration with colleges should be improved to develop

more satisfactory curricula for agricultural statisticians and economists; professional training offered in the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture should be extended.

3) The balance between higher and lower grade personnel in the Bureau should be improved. There should be at least two professional analysts for each major commodity or commodity group.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics

Periodic surveys should be made to obtain data on the distribution of income, expenditures, consumption, and savings by consumers in different geographic areas, income and family size groups. Nationwide surveys of the population, both urban and rural, were conducted in 1936 and 1942. A third survey is needed now. In the intervals between periodic nationwide surveys, smaller surveys are required for the purpose of estimating changes.

Bureau of Dairy Industry

Funds should be provided for the analysis of data now available.

Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering

An agronomist and additional clerical help should be employed to exploit the vast amount of raw statistics now in the files of the Bureau.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

1) Because of the increasing importance of foreign affairs to the United States and the growing interest in agricultural developments abroad, personnel should be improved and strengthened.

2) More frequent releases and publication of additional data would improve the Office's service to the public and to other governmental agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The recommendations of this Bureau are given under three heads:

A Integration of Statistical Operations

The facilities and personnel of the Bureau of the Census should be available to other governmental agencies. In the collection,

compilation, and publication of data by governmental agencies problems arise that involve resources in the way of statistics, field organization, map facilities, tabulating equipment, and personnel trained in specialized techniques. In allocating functions among Federal statistical agencies, existing resources should be utilized to the utmost. The Bureau of the Census believes that through the fuller use of such facilities on a service basis or through the integration of certain types of collection, compilation, and publication functions, economies could be realized and the quality of results improved. It believes, moreover, that further use of the facilities and technical personnel of the Bureau of the Census would offer opportunities for economies and the improvement of collection and compilation. The use of such services by other agencies would be appropriate only when careful study indicates that economies or better quality of data, or both, will be effected, with diminished burden on respondents.

B General and Administrative Problems

- 1) Major censuses should be rescheduled to enable the Census Bureau to maintain a well trained planning, supervisory, and field organization as a strong nucleus for the expanded scale of activities resulting from simultaneous complete coverage at ten-year intervals of agriculture and population. (This has now been accomplished by Public Law 671, 80th Cong., 2d Sess.)
- 2) An improved statutory basis for current surveys and availability of mandatory reporting requirements should save some of the effort devoted to obtaining adequate voluntary response for certain important surveys. (This also has been accomplished by Public Law 671.)
- 3) Current statistical work should be stabilized. Drastic changes from year to year in the nature and scale of recurrent statistical programs caused by varying annual appropriations give rise to excessive administrative costs. Improvement may be sought through more adequate recognition of the results of such changes by Executive and Congressional agencies concerned with the authorization and support of statistical programs, and through the more explicit long run underwriting of statistical activities. The Census Bureau offers no specific proposal but urges that the problems be recognized and that means of stabilizing appropriations be carefully explored.

- 4) To give greater flexibility in meeting requests for supplementary data, receipts for special studies should be credited directly to Census Bureau appropriations instead of to the Treasury.
- 5) Standards of classification and qualification for mathematical, analytical, and survey statisticians should be consistent (the Civil Service Commission is now working in this direction). Qualified nonstatus key personnel should be retained and immediate provision made for employment security to prevent costly and unnecessary turnover.
- 6) Any basic steps that might expedite the printing of reports are desirable, as statistics are a highly perishable commodity, subject to sharp depreciation with age. Substantial economies in administration would result from prompt publication. The burdensome handling of special inquiries would be minimized and requests for information in advance of publication forestalled.
- 7) The present law prohibiting the release of listings of firms covered by the censuses of business and industry should be amended. Such amendment, permitting issuance of lists showing names, addresses, business classification, and possibly also a size classification code, would enable other Federal agencies to attempt comparable coverage of census industry codes, and help ensure comparability of statistical classifications by type of business and location.
- 8) The relocation of Census Bureau headquarters is recommended. The remoteness from downtown Washington creates serious administrative problems.
- 9) Foreign trade statistics work should be centralized by bringing to Washington work now done in New York.

C Specific Surveys

- 1) The following recommendations concern the filling of significant gaps in statistical reporting:

Housing: the census of housing should be continued.

Agricultural: annual enumeration of sample areas would contribute to accuracy and completeness of data for intercensal years.

Domestic trade: the service trades should be covered and sufficient funds made available to put the retail chain and general wholesale reports on a sounder sampling basis.

Foreign trade: statistics on moving cargo by air should be com-

piled, as well as more information on trade with individual countries, on waterborne commerce, and on exports under foreign assistance programs; present classifications for export statistics should be revised to reflect new products and industries.

Government: current State-by-State data on revenue, expenditure, and debt, and similar data covering all local governments within major metropolitan areas, should be made available. Total governmental expenditures should be published more frequently than at ten-year intervals.

Industry: manufacturing firms should be surveyed annually to carry forward a few of the principal measures of plant activities developed in the quinquennial census, and to fill serious gaps in the reports on current production in the apparel, lumber, and all metal products groups.

Population surveys: an annual sample survey would yield important population, labor force, and housing figures for States and large cities, and would reduce the very heavy load in taking the complete censuses; the present staff on population estimates should be increased to meet a larger proportion of current requests for estimates of various age classes and areas.

2) If the mid-month data on cotton ginning (required by Act of 1924) were eliminated, no significant information would be lost.

3) The requirement that export declarations be notarized, an unnecessary burden on shippers, should be abrogated.

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

Office of Business Economics

1) Appropriations should be increased not only to extend operations long needed but to maintain the quality of regular work.

2) There should be an integrated program of Federal statistics, the rationale and elements of which should be clearly set forth to serve as a guide to all collecting agencies. This coordinated program should provide the data required for general economic analysis. It should be built around a framework such as a system of national economic accounts, broadly conceived in terms of both current and constant dollars and embracing both operating and capital accounts.

3) The statistical resources of administrative agencies should be more effectively utilized. Some of the data required for develop-

ing a system of national economic accounts essential for general economic analysis are now byproducts of administrative programs. Administrative agencies produce some of the best economic statistics, which reflect the benefits of mandatory powers, uniform reporting, complete coverage, and continuity. The potentialities of these sources should be exploited more fully, not only for the sake of quality but also because of the obvious economy of this method of obtaining information.

4) The programs of agencies that collect statistics for informational rather than administrative purposes should be organized to fill the gaps that will be left after the resources of the administrative agencies have been fully exploited.

Office of Domestic Commerce

1) The entire responsibility for each group of industry statistics should be lodged in one agency. Central responsibility in the industry and marketing fields falls appropriately on the Department of Commerce. Public Law 733 grants authority and authorizes appropriations for extensive research activities by the Department of Agriculture within the field of distribution that conflict with, duplicate, and encroach upon the long established program of research of the Department of Commerce in this field. The breadth of this Act, the magnitude of appropriations authorized, and the fundamental issues raised are so great that reconsideration of the program it embraces may be in order. This Act precipitates the need for careful consideration of the appropriate allocation of research activities among the Departments within the Executive Branch of the government.

2) Transportation statistics should be improved. Data covering the movement of traffic for all forms of transport (except inland waterways) are inadequate. The Transportation Division has urged a census of transportation and has suggested the inclusion of transportation use questions in other census compilations.

3) Adequate resources should be made available for the improvement of construction data. Better data are needed on residential construction. Gaps in data on nonresidential construction in 11 western States should be filled. Consistent sources on public utility construction should replace sources now used. Techniques for measuring expenditure for maintenance and repairs should be developed and applied. Current measures of residential conver-

sions and demolitions should be developed. Estimates of expenditures on farm construction should be completely overhauled.

A major improvement would result from filling three existing gaps: deficiencies in our knowledge of the pattern of material consumption in construction should be made good; inadequate indexes of construction costs should be replaced by reliable measures; faults in present inventories of construction materials, especially those in the hands of distributors and dealers, should be corrected.

These recommendations cover not only the present field of the Office of Domestic Commerce but also some of the statistical activities that are now the responsibility of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, recommendation of all these items does not imply that the ODC believes it should itself undertake activities in the fields now assigned to the BLS.

Office of International Trade

- 1) Important foreign trade statistics now published with a lag of two or three years should be released promptly.
- 2) The greatest single gain in governmental efficiency in the field of commodity statistics could be achieved by establishing in one central source an adequate staff of specialized and competent personnel. Through a series of 'emergencies' (depression, war, postwar) various governmental agencies have been established, each requiring specialized commodity knowledge. One central analytical staff and one central body of commodity statistics would serve the needs of all interested agencies.
- 3) A larger staff is needed.

CIVIL AERONAUTICS ADMINISTRATION

1) An inter-agency committee should be established to develop a system of standard classifications for private operators and operations. Such classification is a necessary first step toward the formulation of programs for collecting and compiling data in this field.

2) The following recommendations concern the expansion of regular activities and the filling of gaps in aviation statistics:

A comprehensive system for maintaining current accurate statistics on active certificated airmen should be developed and pro-

cedures established for conducting periodic samples to obtain data on qualifications, performance, and flying activity.

A system of periodic statistics should be inaugurated on certificated aircraft to show the number by type, make, model, and year of manufacture.

An integrated set of statistics should be assembled on the utilization of air navigation facilities, subdivided for civil flights.

Statistics on the usage of private aircraft should be broadened and refined.

Reports of certificated carriers and noncertificated cargo carriers should be modified to include data on air cargo classified by tons originated and terminated by major commodity groups. The classification of the Interstate Commerce Commission, with suitable breakdowns for air traffic, could be used.

WEATHER BUREAU

1) Weather Bureau studies should be modernized by the inauguration of a punch card system costing about \$3 million. This could be spread over 5 years with annual appropriations of \$600,000. Such a program would permit use of a tremendous backlog of manuscript climatic records containing about 100 million observations.

2) The Central Repository of weather and climatic records would be made effectively complete if vast quantities of records were reduced to microfilm. The savings would progressively offset the cost by freeing space now occupied by bulky files.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

The recommendations of this Bureau fall under three heads:

A Coverage of Statistical Program

Price program: there is a recognized need for greater local coverage and for consumer price indexes for small and medium size cities, as well as for extension of measures of intercity differences in levels of living costs.

Employment, hours, and earnings statistics: this program should be extended to the principal industrial areas of the country, with greater industrial detail at the national level, particularly in the nonmanufacturing segment of the economy.

Wage statistics: industrial and area coverage should be broader; data should be obtained for additional key occupations; certain professional and white collar groups should be better represented.

Productivity program: more comprehensive data are needed.

Construction: local data on housing activity are desired; new work on indexes of housing costs should be undertaken.

The program of analysis should be commensurate with the statistical program. First priority goes to the production and maintenance of basic statistical series. Such resources as are available are now devoted to evaluation, development, and improvement of the data themselves. During the last 10 or 15 years, however, the Bureau has given more attention to analyses of data needed for current questions of economic policy—input-output studies and studies of family budgets of city workers bear particularly on these questions. A vast accumulation of data of high quality, reasonably comparable over many decades, remains to be exploited when competent personnel are available. Additional research in the economic behavior and relationships of employment, wages, consumption, prices, and productivity would not only facilitate the development of better statistics but also contribute to the understanding of the economy.

B Technical Development

Last year emphasis was put on the maintenance of going series; this year the Bureau has based its budget requests on the need for guaranteeing the statistical validity of its published data as well as on program expansion. Meticulous attention to the accuracy of observations and continual testing of relationships and inferences are quite as important as knowledge of 'sampling errors', and far more difficult. These intangible products, on which the integrity of the statistics rests, should be recognized in the Administration and Budget. Recommendations include:

The appropriation of funds for developing and maintaining a current classification, based on the Standard Industrial Classification of the Division of Statistical Standards, of the entire reporting system of employment, payrolls, hours, earnings in manufacturing and nonmanufacturing enterprises.

Complete revision of the consumer price index; modernization of the wholesale price index.

Revisions of interindustry relationships.

Improvements in sampling techniques of wage studies.

The following recommendations involve other agencies, as well as the BLS.

- 1) In the construction of the BLS consumer price index and the BAE index of prices paid by farmers common concepts should be employed and the reasons for present differences in concepts recognized and fully explained.
- 2) The Production and Marketing Administration is initiating surveys of food consumption and retail food prices in large cities that will include many now covered by the BLS. It is recommended that the functions to be performed in this field by the Production and Marketing Administration, especially as they relate to the retail food price work of the BLS, be clearly defined.
- 3) Present conflicts and ambiguities in the measurement of retail price movements should be eliminated. The issuance by the Department of Commerce of an index of retail prices (compiled primarily as a deflator of retail sales) gives rise to confusion in the mind of the public. This index is made up largely of commodity segments of the consumer price index, with a few added series; it is not in fact a comprehensive index of retail prices. The BLS has offered to construct such an index of retail prices, but funds were not available.
- 4) Work on prevailing wage statistics should be centralized. The Interior Department, the Army, the Navy, and various other agencies have sent their agents into private establishments to collect information similar to that obtained by the BLS. It is recommended that action be taken to provide the Bureau with adequate funds to permit it to serve as the collection agency for all governmental agencies that need wage data from private industry.
- 5) Coordination of all statistical activities concerning the development of an integrated research and statistics program on employment, hours, earnings, and turnover, and labor information for areas, States, and the nation is recommended. This is in line with recent recommendations of the Bureau of the Budget, as indicated in a letter to the Secretary of Labor. It is recommended that the Monthly Report on the Labor Force survey be transferred from the Bureau of the Census to the Bureau of Labor Statistics to assure coordinated public release and integration of employment and unemployment developments.

6) Technical assistance should be afforded State and other public agencies. The successful experience with Federal-State cooperation in compiling statistics on employment for individual States has demonstrated the possibilities of producing good local data, conforming to uniform national standards to serve both local and national needs. The Federal government has a positive obligation to make available to the public the results of its experience in collecting and processing economic statistics. A relatively small investment in a technically competent staff would enable the Bureau to train personnel in State and local agencies to produce local information. By this economical device the public could have the use of a more widespread and localized service in economic statistics.

C Personnel Recommendations

More attention should be given within the government to training personnel. Every effort should be made to maintain comparable salaries for comparable work, and governmental salaries should not be permitted to fall out of line with salaries paid in private industry. The process of recruiting and hiring technicians to perform special studies of a noncontinuous nature should be more flexible.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

BUREAU OF MINES

The formulation and implementation of a sound mineral policy require a constant flow of comprehensive, accurate mineral statistics and their interpretation. The data now available are inadequate for this purpose and for other continuing activities of both government and industry.

1) Data on industrial inventories and on patterns of use of all strategic minerals should be compiled annually, and for many commodities quarterly and monthly. They are especially important in administering the stockpiling program and for other industrial mobilization planning purposes.

2) More statistics on mineral production are needed. The Bureau's record of the output of individual mineral desposits is one of the most valuable tools geologists and mining engineers have in their quest for new sources. But the greatly intensified search now called for requires that statistics on mineral production relate output figures to geological factors and to productive tech-

niques. The nation's declining mineral self-sufficiency in turn calls for much greater emphasis on technologic research to reduce costs so that lower grade materials can be worked profitably. A major factor in this problem is the productivity of labor for which fuller information on trends and accomplishments in the use of machinery is requisite.

3) Reliable information on mineral developments abroad should be gathered more frequently. Our growing dependence on foreign sources of supply, our stockpiling programs, and our interests in foreign markets for those minerals we are able to export require more complete data than are now available. To assure the flow of such information from the principal mineral producing and consuming areas and to provide proper understanding of its significance, at least 20-25 technically qualified mineral experts should be sent abroad to key posts to serve as reporting officers in the Foreign Service.

4) More detailed information on the distribution of fuels from source of production to point of ultimate use and data on stocks on hand are required, to provide not only a basis for more thorough understanding of our fuel economy but also data essential to industry and government in coping with recurring crises in fuel supplies. Uncertainty concerning the future of our petroleum resources and the impending major shift from natural petroleum products to synthetic liquid fuels emphasize the need for these data at this time. Liquid fuels now comprise one of the most critical national defense problems.

5) More comprehensive statistics are required on the cause, frequency, and severity of injuries in the mineral industries. Such data are entirely lacking for some phases of mining, and statistics on injuries and occupational hazards are especially inadequate. The prevention of accidents in the mineral industries is a major function of the Bureau of Mines, and accident statistics are a basic part of its program. Detailed statistics of this sort would serve many purposes: e.g., in planning accident prevention campaigns and in appraising their effectiveness. Statistics on mine accidents should be expanded to fulfill the minimum standards recently established by the President's Conference on Industrial Safety.

6) Basic studies in mineral economics should be extended. The Bureau's resources are inadequate even to give the minimum

coverage essential to guide the nation's mineral program. Substantial progress could be made if work along this line, in which there is now considerable duplication in various governmental agencies, could be centralized in the Bureau of Mines. Such action would lead to economies, increase efficiency, stimulate wider interest in mineral problems, and make for more expert coverage of the field, with benefit to all. Other agencies, including Congress, requiring advice on matters concerning mineral economics would profit by having available the counsel of a corps of experts supported by the vast technical resources of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey, and being kept fully posted on all aspects of the nation's mineral problems.

7) Civil service procedures should be simplified to facilitate employment of technically qualified persons for work in mineral statistics and economics.

8) To encourage competent personnel to seek employment in the field and to remain with the government, ceilings on top level salaries should be higher.

9) Appropriations should be increased to permit full mechanization of statistical compilation when feasible. This would enable study of additional relationships among data already collected and tabulated for the basic statistical series.

10) Governmental processing of published statistical reports should be speeded up. The delay in printing the results of statistical canvasses greatly reduces their value to the public. Under the present organization this problem is beyond the control of the Bureau of Mines.

11) Uncertainties over year-to-year budgets for mineral statistics, preventing the most efficient use of staff and discouraging the initiation of long range improvements, should be reduced. The ultimate needs for such fundamental government services as fact finding should be recognized and the uncertainties minimized.

12) The expansion and more effective implementation of the present program of cooperative agreements with State statistical agencies is recommended. This has virtually eliminated duplication between the Federal government and 21 States in the collection of mineral statistics. Expansion of this program is required to meet the rapidly growing regional interest in mineral resources.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Because of insufficient funds, surveys of fisheries in many areas have been irregular; frequently two or more years have elapsed between the collection of annual catch and operating unit data and their publication; moreover, the information released has not been in sufficient detail to provide conservation officials, governmental regulatory agencies, or members of the fishing industry with the data required for their operations. The following recommendations are designed to correct these faults:

Nationwide surveys to obtain annual operating unit and catch statistics should be resumed.

Collection of monthly vitamin A statistics should be resumed.

A system of spot checking inventories of manufactured fishery products and a series of reports on fish production forecasts, demand for fishery products, and investment in the fishery industries should be inaugurated.

Additional fishery market news offices should be established to release daily, monthly, and annual reports on current supplies, prices, and other market information.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

- 1) The present three-month lag of monthly statistics on travel should be reduced to one month. (The delay is due primarily to the inadequate staff in the districts with the largest volume, principally New York.)
- 2) Information on citizens entering and departing from the United States should be more detailed. With more staff and money it would be possible to obtain classified information for such categories as States of residence, age, and sex.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF TAX RESEARCH

- 1) The services rendered by the Division would be improved if the statistical information collected by other agencies were expanded, particularly with respect to consumption patterns as affected by time and by changes in income and price levels, the sources of investment funds and the uses of savings, and the distribution of wealth.

- 2) Liaison should be improved among the collectors and users of statistical information in planning statistical programs. The present selective basis of liaison tends to make it excessively restrictive.
- 3) The Division's research coverage on important economic aspects of Federal taxation should be extended. Present appropriations are inadequate for this purpose.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Federal banking statistics would be provided more efficiently and at lower cost if they were collected and tabulated by a single agency (there are three Federal banking agencies). In the actual collection of statistics at the present time the three existing agencies have so divided the field that there is little duplication, but centralized responsibility is desirable.

CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD

- 1) Statistical activities and services would be greatly improved if it were possible to offer permanent employment (civil service status) to highly qualified persons under procedures involving less delay. Present procedures for recruiting persons with specialized qualifications are cumbersome and time consuming.
- 2) Summarization and publication of data, which at present the Board uses for its own purposes but which would be useful to the aviation industry and other organizations, could be accomplished by increasing the staff or reducing the work load of the Board.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

- 1) Basic enabling statistical legislation might be useful. Appropriations for special statistics are often thrown out on a point of order because the legislative authorization for the collection of such statistics is questioned.
- 2) The major statistical gaps in our present economic reporting service should be filled (see Sec. 4, Operating Problems and Deficiencies No. 7, for a statement of gaps prepared by the Joint Committee on the Economic Report with the collaboration of the Council of Economic Advisers); inquiry should be amplified to cover expectations concerning sales, prices, and inventories; accounting concepts used by business should be reviewed.

3) It is highly desirable that economic pattern analysis (involving 'input-output' studies) be done in one place, with the various agencies concerned having full access to the results. They may, of course, wish to supplement the basic studies in making applications necessary for their own purposes.

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION

Costs would be reduced and time economized by precoding and inserting previously reported data in questionnaire forms whenever there is a reasonable possibility that the data will be unchanged or that they will prove helpful in assuring uniform reporting by mail, and by preparing final copy by means of tabulators or card operated typewriters, using cards punched directly from report forms without intervening transcription.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

The program of quarterly and annual financial reports should be extended. The plan for this work as originally set up by the Governmental Inter-agency Committee on Needs for Financial Statistics called for the collection of very brief quarterly statements and annual statements in much greater detail. The initial work was confined to manufacturing corporations but the inter-agency plan provided for expansion as rapidly as possible to cover mining, wholesale, retail, and service trades corporations. The appropriation requests for fiscal 1948 and 1949 included funds for both segments of the work plan. The amounts were reduced each year to allow only for the quarterly segment; provision was not made for annual reports.

The collection of annual reports is regarded as indispensable if an index of industrial concentration is to be constructed. There is today no continuing comparable information on the trend of concentration of economic power. It has not been practicable to prepare such an index from quarterly reports because they are not sufficiently accurate and because some important corporations cannot supply the data on a quarterly basis. The annual statements would not only supply the data required for an index of economic concentration but would also fill the needs of research organizations, labor unions, business concerns, and the general public.

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

- 1) More personnel trained in sampling work should be employed and higher classification given statistical work.
- 2) More funds should be allocated to printing to permit publication of greater detail.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

- 1) Gaps in data should be filled, particularly in national marriage and divorce statistics and current statistics of reportable diseases. Comprehensive national statistics are needed on all important causes of disability and death.
- 2) Vital statistics and morbidity data should be correlated with socio-economic information on the individual, the family, and environmental factors.
- 3) Public health statistical programs should be extended in such fields as tuberculosis, cancer, and heart disease.
- 4) Provision for decennial work on problems related to census enumeration would give opportunity through matching records to test the completeness of birth registration and of the census count of infants (data from both sources are known to be significantly incomplete).

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

The following statement combines comments and recommendations concerning the organization of governmental statistical work as a whole as well as the specific activities of the Social Security Administration.

The basic principle that has governed the organization of statistical activities in the Social Security Administration has been to keep the compilation and analysis of statistics and research close to program operations. A small central research staff is responsible for over-all and interprogram problems and for the coordination of research and statistical activities throughout the Administration. Unfortunately, in recent years the Administration has not had the funds and staff to implement, fully or even adequately, the program of over-all research planning and coordination.

The Social Security Administration is convinced, moreover, that for the Federal government as a whole, decentralization

balanced by effective coordination of statistical activities would be the most productive and flexible form of organization; and that such a plan would cost less than either a highly centralized statistical organization or a decentralized organization with inadequate provision for over-all planning and coordination.

In general, maximum advantage should be taken of opportunities to obtain statistical data as byproducts of program operations in conjunction with administration. The multiplicity of interests and the need to focus research on problems of over-all policy significance make imperative adequate provision for coordination of the statistical activities of different agencies. To some extent this is being achieved and could be further advanced through joint cooperative undertakings and through inter-agency agreements under the leadership of the Division of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget.

The development of an adequate body of statistical intelligence for the United States requires State and local as well as national data. In many cases such data can best be obtained through State and local agencies. The Federal-State grant-in-aid programs rely on State agencies for the compilation of almost all their statistical data. It is important, therefore, that provision be made for adequate coordination of national, State, and local statistical activities and for technical assistance and guidance to the States, particularly in developing statistics on Federal-State operating programs.

While recognizing the importance of operating statistics, the Social Security Administration regrets that because of insufficient funds and staff it has had to concentrate almost all its efforts on collecting data from operating records. As a result, there is too little information on the personal characteristics and economic status of public assistance recipients, on the causes of dependency, on the family and other characteristics of unemployment insurance beneficiaries, on the problems of the aged, on the number and characteristics of persons in employments not covered by the social security program, etc. Provision should be made for more analytic studies and for the collection of data—presumably on a sample basis—that would reveal needs and problems beyond the borders of the existing programs.

A serious defect of the statistical program of the Social Security Administration, and probably of the statistical activities of many

other agencies, is the limited provision for analysis as distinguished from compilation of data, and the limited recognition given to the desirability of developing the data from program operations so that they may be of maximum use to the governmental statistical program as a whole. The statistical resources available from the social security program have been utilized for immediate program evaluation and planning purposes. Many fundamental, long run analytic uses of the data, however, have been entirely lost because staff and funds were lacking to carry out studies or to improve the data, or even to make the data available to others for their analytic use. °

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

Gaps in housing data with respect to building materials utilized (over 3,000 separate items in an average one-family house), prices and activity in used housing, the volume and characteristics of residential construction, housing costs, and house market analysis should be filled. Because of the extent and complexity of the industry it has not been practicable to develop a body of housing data on a continuing basis that does much more than indicate the broad outlines of the industry's activity.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

BUREAU OF TRANSPORT ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

Funds and personnel should be provided for an adequate system of cost finding.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC REPORT

A permanent nongovernmental committee should be established to maintain a continuous review of statistics issued by Federal agencies. This need is clearly demonstrated by the skepticism in regard to governmental statistics which is felt by members of Congress, business, and labor. The relationships or distinctions between many of our statistical reports should be defined more exactly. See also reference to gaps in present statistical reports, Sec. 4, Operating Problems and Deficiencies No. 7.

UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION

1) The staff, particularly clerical, should be increased so as to reduce the unit cost of output.

- 2) Funds should be appropriated to give effect to the Civil Service Commission's approved plan of reorganizing the Research Division.
- 3) Statistics collected but not issued in printed form should be published.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

- 1) The statistical functions should be integrated more closely with the regulatory and policy making functions of the Commission.
- 2) An adequate appropriation should be procured for statistical work.
- 3) There should be a more effective system of liaison among the various agencies and appropriations committees to keep Congress informed as plans for statistical programs are formulated. Individual agency appearances before the Congressional committees could be usefully supplemented by the testimony of individuals competent with respect to the over-all statistical program of the government.

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION

More statistical clerks should be hired to do work that is now of necessity done by higher paid specialists or economists. This would free higher grade members of the staff for more important work that has been deferred or delayed.