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## EDITOR'S CORNER

From time to time, collections of articles on specialized topics will appear in the *Annals*. The articles in this issue were prepared for a NBER workshop on control theory in economic systems, but readers should find that the methodology is accessible to nonspecialists, and that many of the results are of general interest—particularly in the area of macro-economic analysis. Since the introductory paper by Athans and Chow serves as a summary and critique of research in this issue, further discussion of these papers is not necessary here. It should be noted, however, that the participants in the two-day meeting had favorable reactions to the interdisciplinary nature of that workshop; and a follow-up workshop on control theory is in the planning stages.

A list of past and future workshops gives an indication of the scope of the new Interinstitutional Conference on the Computer in Economic and Social Research:

### *Workshops and Conferences Held*

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Time Series Data Bank   | February 26, 1970     |
| Micro-Data Sets   | October 22–23, 1970   |
| The Computer and Communication of Research<br>Information in Economics I  | June 4, 1971          |
| The Computer and Communication of Research<br>Information in Economics II | September 17, 1971    |
| Role of the Computer in Economic and Social<br>Research in Latin America  | October 25–29, 1971   |
| Prices and Consumer Expenditures I  | April 6–7, 1972       |
| Control Theory and Economic Systems                                       | May 5–6, 1972         |
| Conference on the Current Population Survey                               | September 20–21, 1972 |

### *Workshops and Conferences being Explored*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Data Management Workshop                                       |  |
| Micro Data Set Workshops                                       |  |
| Data Sets for the Study of Market Organization                 |  |
| Current Population Survey                                      |  |
| Census Data  |  |
| Financial Data   |  |
| Prices and Consumer Expenditures II (Measurement and Analysis) |  |
| Prices and Consumer Expenditures III (Collection and Use)      |  |
| The Economics of Computers                                     |  |
| Control Theory and Economic Systems II                         |  |
| Information Dissemination in Economics III                     |  |
| Latin American Workshops                                       |  |
| Macro-Models for Policy Planning                               |  |
| Employment and Labor Absorption                                |  |

The Conference has taken its place alongside two long-established conference series sponsored by the NBER, the conferences on Research in Income and Wealth, and the conferences organized by the Universities-National Bureau Committee for Economic Research. There has been a special emphasis on smaller, more specialized meetings due to the pace of change in the area.

Papers from some of the workshops that have already been held were published in the *Annals* during this last year. The other workshops are still in various stages of planning. For example, a preliminary meeting was held to determine the desirability of a workshop on Data Sets for the Study of Markets. At that time a questionnaire was formulated and sent to leading researchers in the field of industrial organization. A preliminary program is being developed on the basis of responses to the questionnaire. In this case, there are a number of major, but sometimes duplicative, efforts in the area. Empirical work in industrial organization should benefit if the various bodies of data could be critiqued and discussed. It is also possible that the groundwork could be laid for a cooperative effort which would combine data from public sources on large firms in the economy. Such a project would meet the purpose of the Conference series: to aid long term projects involving computers and social and economic measurement.

The members of the Board of Editors would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have aided in the review of manuscripts during the past year:

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Many other individuals who participated in workshops also provided feedback which was essential for the selection and improvement of papers.

S.V.B.