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Subtractions from measures of capital consumption
 Audit reductions of reported depreciation

However, the measures would remain quite imperfect after these few revisions. An expedient that could be embraced for ensuring comparability is the method necessarily used in estimating the depreciation on residences and government-owned producer durables. That is, depreciation in accounting form can be estimated for every ascertainable type of product classified according to assumed lengths of useful life. This has in fact been done as a step in the derivation of price indexes for the conversion of accounting depreciation charges, which are in terms of cost or revaluation prices, to prices current during the period of measurement.⁵⁴

There is perhaps no adequate basis for the acceptance of over-all capital consumption estimates based on actual accounting data in preference to estimates more synthetically derived. However, a great disadvantage of synthetic estimates is the difficulty of breakdown by type of asset-holder. Since accounting depreciation data are important as such in conjunction with profits data for analysis of the sources and uses of business funds, and since comparable measures of the uses are needed, breakdowns of GCF by type of holder as represented in industry breakdowns of accounting charges for depreciation are strongly desired. Consequently, it is desirable to work toward the extension and refinement of the breakdowns of GCF by type of final holder, which would permit the calculation of net capital formation according to variants of more restricted scope on the basis of more comparable estimates of gross capital formation and capital consumption than can now be used.

⁵⁴ See Fabricant, *op. cit.*, Ch. 10.

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