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## PREFACE

The scope and character of the present survey were conditioned by the time limits imposed by the operating schedule of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government. Extensive field study with detailed appraisals of individual statistical series was out of the question. It was necessary to draw to the fullest extent possible on the experience and existing knowledge of governmental statisticians, members of private research institutions, and members of advisory groups sponsored by organizations of labor and business and professional societies. This aid was generously given. Administrators and staff members of Federal statistical agencies described their operations and their problems in comprehensive written reports and extended personal interviews. The Labor Advisory Committee of the Division of Statistical Standards, the Committee on Business Statistics of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and the Census Advisory Committee of the American Statistical Association appraised existing procedures for us and made detailed suggestions for the correction of defects. John W. Tukey, serving as chairman of an informal advisory group set up by the American Statistical Association, gave us the benefit of his own review of the problems of statistical administration. In group discussions, in personal meetings, and in written comments on our draft report the members of the research staff of the National Bureau of Economic Research reviewed our procedures, findings, and recommendations and contributed to the substance of the final report. We would acknowledge particularly the help of Arthur F. Burns, Solomon Fabricant, Thor Hultgren, and Geoffrey Moore. Our special thanks are due, also, to N. I. Stone of the Board of Directors of the National Bureau, who has drawn upon his wide experience in industry and in government in giving counsel and advice.

The first major task in our survey of statistical agencies, an intensive review of the present organization and activities of

Federal statistical agencies, was conducted through written reports and a series of hearings in Washington. In these hearings we were able to enlist the aid of an advisory panel of scholars versed in the techniques of administration and acquainted with the needs of users of government statistics. The members of this advisory panel participated in conferences with agency representatives and assisted in the appraisal of evidence and the formulation of ideas for improving the statistical services. Although these advisors were not asked to take responsibility for specific recommendations, our central findings and our decisions as to the general character of the recommendations to be made were in good part the product of these hearings and of accompanying panel discussions. This panel consisted of Martin R. Gainsbrugh, National Industrial Conference Board, John D. Millett, Columbia University, George Soule, Rutgers University, P. K. Whelpton, Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, Miami University, and Samuel S. Wilks, Princeton University. In hearings on labor statistics the panel was able to add to its membership Lazare Teper of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and Solomon Barkin of the Textile Workers Union of America. The substantial contribution of the advisory panel is acknowledged with appreciation.

Valued personal aid was received from Charles E. Barrett, George A. Bishop, Raschi Fein, Muriel De Mar, Maude R. Pech, George Stepanovitch, and Lionel Weiss. Mrs. Pech was a major helper at all stages of the study. Martha Anderson has rendered skilled editorial assistance. The charts reflect H. Irving Forman's technical competence.

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