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STATISTICAL REPORTER

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STATISTICAL REPORTER

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Investigation of Possible Politicization of Federal Statistical Programs

The Subcommittee on Census and Statistics of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service issued on October 5, 1972, a staff report entitled "Investigation of Possible Politicization of Federal Statistical Programs." Because of its special interest to statisticians, the complete text of the report is reprinted below.

Introduction

This report deals with a study made by the staff of the Subcommittee on Census and Statistics of our Government's statistical activities with specific reference to:

- (1) Possible politicization of Federal statistics,
- (2) Discontinuance of the press conferences by professionals of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and
- (3) Reorganization of Federal statistical activities, principally, at the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The decision to make the study was made at a time when credibility of Government information was being questioned at various levels by citizens of all political persuasions, and allegations were being made that the Federal statistical program was being purposely manipulated to conform to the policies of the incumbent Administration. Confidence in the credibility of the Government can only be restored by a policy of making available to the fullest extent possible accurate and complete information on the Nation's policies, programs, and statistics and other information that contributes to an informed citizenry.

Scope of Study

The Subcommittee staff's study was conducted principally by interviews and discussions with 65 individuals interested in Federal statistics and included Government and non-Government parties. Key, as well as middle management, Government employees were interviewed. Following is a summary of the interviews held.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Government agencies:	
Department of Commerce	21
Department of Labor	9
Department of Agriculture	2
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare	1
Office of Management and Budget	1
Civil Service Commission	1
Former-Government employees:	
Department of Commerce	4
Department of Labor	3
Users of Federal statistics:	
Professional societies	3
Independent organizations	5
Labor: AFL-CIO	1
News media	9
Members of congressional staffs	5
Total	65

A list of the individuals interviewed is included as an appendix to this report.

Several interviewees insisted that part or all of the information they furnished be considered as "off the record". This was particularly true of some of the members of the press who agreed to grant their interviews only on this condition. Accordingly, the material presented in this report will, generally, not refer by name to the individuals furnishing the information, opinions, and conclusions. The Subcommittee's staff agreement to conduct its interviews on this basis hopefully did not have any material effect on obtaining pertinent information or replies to specific questions asked or on its evaluations. The Subcommittee staff had anticipated a greater degree of assistance from the press as the newspapers in general have been very critical of the Administration's statistical policies.

In its interviews with Government employees, the Subcommittee's staff did not encounter any restrictions placed by top management except at the Bureau of the Census. The Director of the Bureau had a member of his legal counsel's staff attend all but two interviews. The staff objected to this arrangement and the Director stated that he would not insist that a legal counsel's representative be present at interviews. It was his opinion that legal counsel would protect the members of his staff in the event that their statements were to be used in hearings or in a report. He informed the Subcommittee's

staff that he would leave the decision to the individual employee the staff wished to interview which, in its opinion, was tantamount to making the decision for them. The staff believes that the presence of the legal counsel served as an inhibitor to those interviewed at Census and may have brought about a reluctance on the part of the employee to express their thoughts freely and tended for the remarks to be made in guarded language.

At the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Commissioner invited the Subcommittee's staff to speak to anyone on the BLS staff whom it thought could be helpful. He offered to arrange the interviews or stated that the staff could make them direct with members of his staff. The staff chose the latter course and at no time were the interviews with BLS employees attended by others.

At the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's National Center for Health Statistics and at the Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service, a representative from each of the agencies congressional liaison staff or public information office attended the interviews. However, they did not participate in the interview and, in the Subcommittee staff's opinion, did not hamper the exchange between the interviewees and the staff.

The Subcommittee's staff wanted to afford the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Labor the opportunity to express their opinions and comments on the subject matter of its study. The staff met with the Secretary of Labor and obtained his views. The staff attempted to arrange for a meeting with the Secretary of Commerce. The staff was told by his appointment secretary that the Secretary requested that she inform us that he would stand by the comments made by Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Harold Passer, in the staff's meeting previously held with him.

Charge of Politicization of Statistics

Charges have been made that the (1) discontinuance of the Bureau of Labor Statistics press conference and periodic issuance of the poverty or "low-income" indices, (2) reorganization of BLS and Census, and (3) changes made in key personnel assignments evidenced an attempt to politicize Federal statistics. Statements were made by several individuals interviewed that they had suspicions that this was the case. However, none of them could suggest how this could be demonstrated and most felt it could not be demonstrated.

In the Subcommittee's staff's discussion of possible politicization with the BLS official, who had previously conducted the BLS press conferences on the unemployment index, he stated that the press releases issued after the discontinuance of the press conferences might include a subtle phrase or word which might have political connotations. The staff inquired as to whether it might detect this by comparing press releases issued before and after the discontinuance of the press conferences. He informed the staff that he did not believe this could be done and added the even he, with his familiarity with the subject matter, could not point to specific words or phrases having political connotations.

Similar statements and opinions were expressed by two former key BLS professionals and by some members of the news media who had attended the press conferences.

The President of the American Statistical Association informed the Subcommittee's staff that he too felt and had feelings expressed to him that there was some attempt to politicize Federal statistics but he could not demonstrate this. He did not think such demonstration was possible. A former Director of the Bureau of the Budget made similar comments and stated that to demonstrate politicization would, in his words, "be impossible".

Comments made concerning possible politicization were directed to the analysis and interpretation of statistics. There was unanimous agreement by those interviewed that there was a high regard for the integrity of the gathering, and publication of the basic statistical data. Similarly there was only the highest regard for the professionalism and capability of the Government employees associated with producing the statistics. There are certain built-in controls which would make it extremely difficult and practically impossible to alter the statistics. For example, each step of planning, gathering, compiling, and publishing the statistics is performed independently and the possibilities of collusion which would have to come into play, are practically nonexistent.

One of the areas at which the allegation of politicization was directed was the discontinuance of the poverty index with the last quarter of calendar year 1971. The decision to temporarily discontinue the poverty index was made during the first six months of calendar year 1971 based on a recommendation of the professional statisticians and economists. The index had been published using the 1960 Census as the base which, in the opinion of the professionals, no longer was valid because of the substantial changes in the designated poverty areas since the 1960 Census. For example, the south-

west area of Washington, D.C. was designated as a poverty area in the 1960 Census whereas today it is probably a high income area. This is undoubtedly true of many other areas in other major cities. Conversely former high income areas may have become poverty areas during the period between the 1960 and 1970 censuses but would not be included in the poverty index. In the staff's opinion, it would have been to the advantage of the Administration to have had the poverty index continued using the 1960 Census as a basis: such an index could have shown marked favorable changes.

The professional statisticians and economists recommended the resumption of publishing the poverty index at the time the 1970 Census data becomes available for use as a base. The staff believes that the decision to temporarily discontinue the publishing of the poverty index until the 1970 Census data was available was not only reasonable and rational but also precluded the publication of data which would be misleading.

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed concerning the proposed change in the periodic publication of the BLS family budgets for certain hypothetical families (man and wife and two children; a retired couple) which had been computed on the basis of various assumptions. The budgets were published for three classes of income; low, middle, and high. The budgets did not represent what it actually costs the average family of the selected type to live. Instead the budgets were developed to estimate what it would cost to obtain specific necessities using nutrition standards developed by the Department of Agriculture; housing standards developed by Department of Housing and Urban Development; etc. Accordingly, the budgets were based on judgments and assumptions of other agencies and then subjected to the judgment of BLS personnel.

Because of the important role that judgment plays in the development of the budgets it is questionable whether BLS should be producing such data. Further, this type of budget development does not seem to be appropriate for a professional statistical gathering agency.

BLS proposes to develop measures of place-to-place differences in price levels not by reference to a hypothetical family budget but rather in terms of the typical market basket of goods and services that is used in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This would provide information on what it costs to buy the CPI market basket in different geographic locations. In addition, the proposed change would include a determination of the actual expenditures of families of different levels of income. Averages of actual expenditures at the specified

levels could be used as a guide to appropriate budgets at different levels of income. Such averages would not answer the question of what level of income is needed for subsistence or how a given income should be spent which the family budget did not answer either.

The Subcommittee staff believes that the BLS proposal is more in line with what a professional statistical agency should be concerned with than the preparation of family budgets which are based on judgments and assumptions which can vary from individual to individual.

Charges have also been made that politically oriented personnel changes have been made at both the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. At BLS one key employee had his responsibilities reduced but suffered no financial loss or grade level, and another key employee (an economist) was granted a leave of absence. The latter position was considered as to how it would fit in the reorganization being undertaken as the result of an Office of Management and Budget directive. Top BLS management decided that it wanted a new man to fill the Office of Chief Economist. The individual appointed, based on comments received from professionals in and outside the Government, is a highly qualified and recognized professional and no concern was expressed about political influences on him. In the staff's opinion, the personnel changes made at BLS have been minimal, are not out of line with the prerogatives of management, and have not been subjected to substantive political overtones.

Several key personnel changes have been made at the Bureau of the Census. However, the personnel appointed to fill key operating positions, either by transfers from within or obtained from outside the Government, were considered to be highly qualified professionals. This opinion was shared by current and former Census employees and by non-Government personnel having an interest in Federal statistics.

One Census professional, who had previous to the reorganization occupied a key position at a GS-17 level and had been reduced in grade to a GS-15, informed the staff that the individual being considered for what was his former position was the type of professional he would select.

Besides the Director, who is a Presidential appointee, there appeared to have been two political appointments at Census. One was to an administrative position at the top management level. This individual's effect on Census operations has been insulated against by the

integrity and professionalism of the long-term key professionals responsible for Census operations. However, the individual has attempted on many occasions to politically influence the course of events at the Bureau of the Census. This attempt to politicize the work at the Bureau, even though by only one individual, should serve as a warning that political influence at the Bureau is possible.

In commenting on both BLS and Census personnel, the president of one of the professional societies was of the opinion that most of the professional employees of these agencies were "top of the line" or near "top of the line." However, he was of the opinion that there was going to be a lessening of the stature of the professionals because:

(1) Census has not had the foresight to bring in journeymen professionals and to train them over the years—as a result, the present generation of key personnel are reaching or will reach retirement age at nearly the same time which will leave a big gap at Census; and

(2) the reorganizations at Census has led to the early retirements of some key professionals whose replacements will be difficult and will work to the disadvantage of Census.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, there was no evidence which would support the allegations that the personnel changes were politically oriented or were made to politicize the Federal statistics.

A former high Government official, in commenting on possible politicization, stated that he was convinced that no Administration would attempt to bring any influence to bear on changing or coloring any of the statistical data. This, in his opinion, would be committing political suicide and, what's more, the professional technicians would not permit this to happen. He stated that this would not necessarily be the case in the interpretation of the statistical data as this is based on individual judgment, insight, knowledge, and purpose. This former official did not believe that the present Administration had acted substantially different from any other Administration in the area of Federal statistics. It was his opinion that while there was some criticism of how the present Administration went about discontinuing the BLS press briefings and reorganizing the BLS and Census, there wasn't too much to be concerned about and whatever concern may exist now will diminish with the passage of time.

Discontinuance of Press Conferences

The Bureau of Labor Statistics began holding monthly technical briefings for the press around 1953 and the briefings had been held in a continuing form since 1963. The briefings were held on the days of the release of BLS statistics on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the unemployment situation. Generally, BLS technical personnel conducted the briefings.

On March 19, 1971, the Department of Labor issued a press release announcing the discontinuance of the regular press briefings. The text of the release follows:

Effective today the Consumer Price Index will be released without attendant briefings. The new procedure, we expect, will permit earlier release of the data by reducing time needed for the scheduling and preparation for news conferences, avoid the awkwardness of subjecting the professional staff of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to questions with policy implications, and achieve a consistency with the method of release of all other statistical data by the executive branch. Inquiries about the release should be directed to the Assistant Commissioner for Publications, Herbert C. Morton, 961-2327. The Bureau of Labor Statistics staff will be glad to help with technical questions as before.

The discontinuance also applied to the unemployment data according to a statement made by the Secretary of Labor in his March 19, 1971, White House press conference.

The Secretary's announcement has been attributed to a difference in describing a 0.2 (two tenths) of a percent decline in the unemployment rate. At the Secretary's press conference on February 5, 1971, he told reporters that the 0.2 percent decline had "great significance" whereas that same day an Assistant Commissioner, BLS, described the decline as being "marginally significant." The Secretary stated in his March 19, 1971, press conference that the press briefings were discontinued for the following reasons:

(1) *Speed*: The data could be released more quickly if the delays involved in arranging a press conference at a convenient time were obviated;

(2) *Consistency*: Since releases of other indexes in the Federal agencies are not accompanied by press briefings, there need not be such briefings as to these data; and

(3) *Awkwardness*: The briefings can cause awkwardness to the BLS professional staff from having to respond to inquiries that call for a policy response.

Adverse reaction to the Secretary's announcement by the press was immediate and widespread as evidenced by numerous articles and editorials in daily newspapers and periodicals. The gist of the press reaction was that the statistics might be less meaningful, the "door was opened" for more partisan and political commentary on the statistics, and the Government's credibility gap was widened.

There was congressional concern on the discontinuance of the briefings. Both the Joint Economic Committee and the House Committee on Government Operations, through its Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee, conducted hearings dealing with the discontinuance. The House Committee on Government Operations recommended:

That the Secretary of Labor immediately reinstitute the monthly BLS press briefings on the days of release of Consumer Price Index and unemployment statistics and make it clear in a departmental directive that the traditional objective role of the BLS must be maintained.

The Department of Labor has not rescinded its decision and continues to issue press releases on its statistics without press briefings.

With the passage of time, interest in and the necessity for the press briefings has declined dramatically. Members of the press who formerly attended the briefings were, generally, consistent in their feelings that there was no great loss as a result of the discontinuance of the briefings. Reporters from the major newspapers and press service expressed the opinion that without the briefings, they were able to write their articles quicker principally because the press releases contain more descriptive material and tables. In the event that additional or explanatory information is needed, the reporters stated that this can be readily obtained, generally, by telephone calls to BLS personnel concerned.

The Joint Committee on Economics has been holding monthly hearings on BLS statistics on a regular basis since shortly after the discontinuance of the BLS press briefings. The Subcommittee's staff was informed that in the early days of these hearings, members of the press attended regularly. However, attendance has declined with the passage of time. At the April 1972 hearings, no reporters from the major newspapers or press services were present. Of the four press representatives who were in attendance at this hearing, only one was present at the resumption of the hearing which had been recessed shortly after the opening of the hearing.

In a discussion held with a representative of the AFL-CIO on the discontinuance of the press briefings, he informed the staff that there may have been some politicization of Federal statistics and cited the discontinuance of the press briefings as an example. He stated that he felt that selected wording had crept into the press releases. However, he could not demonstrate that political influences were being brought to bear which would result in praise of the Administration, especially in an election year.

It was the general consensus of the principals of three major professional societies interested in and users of Federal statistics, that they were not particularly concerned or disturbed by the discontinuance of the press briefings. Some were of the opinion that the press briefings were not needed and should never have been started. Nevertheless, they took issue with the Secretary of Labor's comment concerning the ability of BLS professionals to handle the briefings. They felt however, that the BLS professionals should be concerned only with the purity and reliability of the statistical data and should not comment on, give opinions dealing with policy matters, or make forecasts. It was their opinion that the latter was a prerogative of the politicians and the Administration.

The president of one of the professional societies stated that regardless of what political party was in power there is some politics involved in the analysis of the statistical data. However, he stated that politics does not have any effect on the raw statistics. There are too many people involved in gathering and assembling the data for politics to have an influence. Also, there were too many built-in internal controls to permit politics to influence the basic statistical data and the Government professionals would be the first to raise public objection thereto. Because of the publicity which the discontinuance of the briefings received and to insure against possible politicization, one of the major societies appointed an ad hoc committee to study and report on possible politicization. However, the ad hoc committee's report will not be issued until after the November 1972 elections.

The unemployment, consumer price, and wholesale price indices are sensitive and critical economic indicators and receive wide publicity. Although indices such as agriculture prices and crop projections, gross national product, foreign exchange and trade, and others play an important role as economic indicators, the press releases on these indices have not generally been accompanied by press briefings. Because the unemployment, consumer price, and wholesale price press releases had, in the past,

been accompanied by press briefings does not in itself justify the need for continuance of the briefings.

The reasons given by the Secretary of Labor for the discontinuance of the press briefings, i.e. speed, consistency, and awkwardness (see page 72), does not, in the Subcommittee's staff's opinion, fully justify the termination thereof. The staff believes that the timing of the announcement of the discontinuance contributed greatly to the strong criticism expressed in the news media. However, the staff found no reasons to question the validity of the reported statistics, nor could it find any evidence to demonstrate the allegations of politicization of statistics. This was probably due to the high regard held for the Government professionals associated with the gathering, assembling, and reporting the statistics and the integrity of the professionals which has been built up over the years.

Reorganization of Federal Statistical Activities

In July 1971, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requested the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare to review their statistical activities and make any necessary organization changes in order to provide for a more unified system of data collection, processing, and analysis. The stated purpose of the OMB reorganization plan was to improve quality and reduce duplication and other operational inefficiencies in the statistical activities of the major statistical-gathering agencies.

Because the OMB reorganization plan followed closely on the heels of other actions by the Administration involving Federal statistical activities, comments were made by the news media and others that the reorganization plan was another instance pointing to the Administration's efforts to control the output of the traditionally independent and non-political statistical agencies.

The Subcommittee staff found that the Administration had been considering the realignment through more centralization of Federal statistical activities for a period of time prior to the emergence of the controversy which is the subject of this report. The President's Departmental Reorganization Program proposed that a number of major statistical programs be brought together under common direction in a Department of Economic Affairs. The July 1971 OMB statistical reorganization plan appears to be an interim measure designed to implement some of the organizational realignment contemplated in the President's program to centralize statistical opera-

tions, before the President's major executive branch reorganization program could be acted on.

In announcing the OMB reorganization directive, the Chief Statistician of OMB stated:

The need to improve the organization of Federal statistical activities arises from the proliferation of statistical collection activities among some 40 different Federal agencies, the wide disparities in the quality of data and the standards used by the various agencies, incomparabilities in the data from different sources, inflexibility of the present structure in meeting emerging data needs, operational inefficiencies and overlapping collection activities, and similar problems.

The essential characteristics of the reorganization plan initially requires the four previously referred to Departments to consolidate planning and data analysis functions, and to centralize data collection and processing. The plan may be expanded to other Departments after further study. Responsibility for determining the scope and content of statistical programs would remain decentralized in the policy-making agencies of each Department. Each major Department, however, would have a central analytical agency and a central data collection and processing center.

Other Departments with a lesser need for statistical data would contract with the data collection and processing centers for statistical services.

Since the new statistical organizations would be similar in all the major Departments, they could be readily consolidated into a larger organizational unit such as the President's proposed Department of Economic Affairs.

Concerning the July 1971 OMB reorganization directive, it should be noted that such a plan would necessarily have been under development for a period of time prior to its date of issue. The staff noted, for example, that a revised plan leading to the July 1971 directive was drafted by OMB in February 1971.

Reorganization of Federal statistical activities had been proposed in the past. For example, in the early 1950's, the Hoover Commission staff recommended a basic reorganization of such activities. In addition, other Commissions, and Committees of Congress recognized a need for greater coordination and integration of Federal statistical activities.

To date, the July 1971 OMB directive has not resulted in a severe shake-up in the organization of the major statistical gathering agencies. The organizational arrangement of the BLS and the Department of Commerce

agencies (Bureau of Census and Office of Business Economics) in existence at that time closely paralleled the OMB proposals.

The most significant organizational change appears to relate to the Department of Commerce statistical agencies. The Bureau of Census and Office of Business Economics (OBE) were brought under the control of a new Social and Economic Statistics Administration (SESA). The Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs in the Department of Commerce was made the Administrator of SESA. Most of the administrative functions such as budget and finance, property management, and personnel, formerly handled by Census and OBE, were combined and transferred to the Office of the SESA Administrator.

The name of the office of Business Economics was changed and all its functions absorbed by a new Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). BEA became the unified analytic arm of SESA and, as such, the statistical indicators program of Census, including issuance of the Business Conditions Digest, was transferred to BEA. BEA also acquired the former Census function relating to special analyses of economic and social conditions in foreign countries. The Bureau of Census, on the other hand, became the centralized data collection and processing agency for SESA. Accordingly, several survey activities and statistical reports were transferred from the former OBE and other Commerce agencies to Census.

At the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) two new offices were created, centralizing data analyses and data collection and processing, each under an Assistant Commissioner—Office of Data Analysis, and Office of Statistical Operations and Processing.

Personnel assignment changes in Census and BEA resulting from the reorganization were made, for the most part, by shifting personnel within house, and not by resorting to hiring from outside the agencies.

Exceptions to this rule were the appointments of Special Assistants to the Director, Bureau of Census, who, we understand, deal in Congressional relations matters. We were informed that one of the Special Assistants formerly worked for the Republican National Committee. In addition, a recent appointment (May 23, 1972) to the position of Acting Associate Director for Electronic Data Processing in the Bureau of Census was made from the private sector.

Most of the administrative staff at SESA were transferred from Census except two top management posts. The Deputy Administrator, SESA, is an appointee who

formerly worked for a management consulting firm, and the Assistant Administrator for Program Review, SESA, a former consulting economist, was appointed from outside the agencies.

Similarly, personnel realignments within BLS resulting from reorganization were also made for the most part by shifting in-house personnel, except for the hiring of an Assistant Commissioner from the private sector to head the new Office of Data Analysis.

Reorganizations commonly foster a short term period of employee discontent within the agencies affected. The Subcommittee staff found that such a reaction also took place among some of the employees at the Bureau of Census and BLS. It is understandable that a lowered employee morale problem would surface as a result of the reorganizational changes. Employees took on different and sometimes lesser duties, supervisors changed, and there was a period of uncertainty while organization realignments took place. The Subcommittee staff heard rumors that several long-term highly respected professionals retired prematurely because of dissatisfaction with the reorganization plans. The Subcommittee staff did not find any basis for this rumor. A top official of the Bureau of Census voluntarily retired after being removed from his position and assigned other duties. The staff was informed that he was removed because, in the judgment of top management, he had not performed adequately in the processing of the 1970 Census data. Two other employees were downgraded and assigned other duties for the same reason.

The Subcommittee staff found that no one questioned the professional qualifications of the persons appointed from the outside or from within to key positions at BLS and Census. To the contrary, most of the people interviewed overtly expressed high regard and complete confidence in the people so appointed.

The staff found no evidence indicating that the reorganization of the Federal statistical activities was politically motivated or that the new organizational structure necessarily tends to make the output of the statistical agencies more susceptible to political manipulation. There is considerable merit in the management concept of centralizing to the most feasible extent, the data collection, processing, and analyses which in the past have been fragmented in many Federal agencies.

A Central Independent Statistical Agency

The staff believes that consideration should be given to the feasibility and desirability of establishing one

central independent agency to collect and process all general purpose statistical data for the Federal Government. It appears that the consolidation of all the data collection and processing activities would be particularly advantageous and economical. Some of the advantages and economies of a central independent agency are:

(1) Reduce the opportunity for an incumbent administration to exercise a partisan effect on or influence vital statistical information which should bring about more credibility in published data.

(2) Focus Federal statistics at one point where the data could be used to the greatest public advantage.

(3) Remove the fragmentation and diffusion of overall Government statistics now being produced by four principal Government agencies.

(4) Reduce duplication of gathering and reporting certain related statistical data.

(5) Increase efficiency and economy in statistical data operations by better utilization of enumerators and complex Automatic Data Processing hardware.

(6) Reduce confusion and inconvenience experienced by the general public and lower levels of government (State, city, and county) which arise because several statistical data gathering agencies approach the public and lower government levels at different times to obtain information. Also, all statistical data could be obtained from one source in the Federal Government.

(7) Combine the existing separate gathering and publication of statistics affecting the economic picture—parts of the overall economic picture are now being developed by Agriculture, BLS, and Census.

(8) Bring about uniformity in publishing statistical data, and

(9) Create an ability on the part of the Government to assign responsibility and accountability for all Federal statistics.

To realize these apparent advantages, the central independent agency should include the statistical responsibilities of Agriculture, BLS, Census, and the National Center for Health Statistics, HEW.

Generally, each of these statistical agencies have their own full-time and part-time employees to conduct periodic surveys. Since the survey work is often cyclical, it creates a management problem to realize optimum utilization of the full-time professional employees, and lessened benefits are obtained from the services of the part-time inexperienced employees together with the additional administrative and training costs. Better utilization of employees and the development of a strong,

experienced professional staff would be more readily attainable by centralizing this activity. Also, centralization of data collection and processing should result in the economical procurement and better utilization of the latest and often costly automatic data processing equipment.

The diffusion of data collection among a number of different Federal agencies is also confusing and annoying to the general public, private business organizations, and State and local governments who are subjected to requests for statistical data in various and sundry forms from the several Federal agencies currently gathering statistical data. Similarly, individuals and organizations who have an interest in and need for the statistical information compiled from the surveys are confused and inconvenienced in attempting to determine what data is available and where to go to obtain it.

The present diffusion of statistical gathering responsibilities to several major agencies also leads to other undesirable administrative features. For example, the Bureau of the Census engages in a number of statistical programs which have little or no relationship to the mission of the parent Department of Commerce. A former high official of the Bureau of the Census indicated to the staff that on occasion top management of the Department gave less than enthusiastic budgetary and other support to some of the Census Bureau activities. In addition, the placement of statistical organizations such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Statistical Reporting Service under the administrative controls of the Departments of Labor and Agriculture respectively, could result in intentional or unintentional statistical bias in favor of the parent Department's viewpoints. Such biases, of course, would be the antithesis of sound statistical results.

The confidentiality of statistical information gathered by the Federal Government is of paramount concern to the public and Members of the Congress. Any weakening of this universally accepted public policy would have an undesirable effect on the integrity of the Federal statistical program. In the past, fears had been expressed that a central statistical agency would tend to dilute the controls over safeguarding such data. The Subcommittee staff believes that this is not necessarily an inevitable effect of centralization. On the contrary, the staff believes that consolidation of information and responsibility for safeguarding it could strengthen the system of control. There would be a point of focus where tight controls and accountability could be established instead of the present diverse locations under several Government organizations with varying legal mandates and officials

having differing views on the concept of confidentiality. Cognizant committees of Congress and other authorities could maintain constant surveillance over the proposed centralized agency's activities.

Unshakable public trust and confidence in the security of information provided to an agency is essential for fulfillment of the agency's mission because much of the statistical information compiled is obtained voluntarily from the public. If for no reason other than in the interests of survival, such agency officials therefore would be inclined to strenuously defend the confidentiality principle. Along these lines, the differing opinions concerning the applicability of the Federal Reports Act of 1942 and Census law on the subject of confidentiality expressed in recent correspondence between the Subcommittee and OMB, Census, Attorney General, and Comptroller General would be avoided under a centralized independent statistical agency governed by precise legal mandates.

Supplementing the probable economies and other potential benefits, such an independent agency would tend to mitigate the real or imagined fears that Federal statistics have been or could be manipulated for political or other purposes. The director or administrator of the central independent statistical agency should be appointed by the President, by and with the advice of the Senate. His term of office should be for a definite period of not less than 10 years nor more than 15 years without the privilege of reappointment. The staff believes that the foregoing procedure of appointment and tenure of office should assure the independence of the central agency and remove concern of partisan influence regardless of the political loyalties of the incumbent administration.

In conclusion, the staff believes that there is considerable merit in the concept of a central independent statistical gathering and processing agency, and suggests that the Subcommittee examine further into this matter.

Observations and Conclusions

Allegations have been made that politicization or attempts to politicize Federal statistics has occurred. However, it was not possible to demonstrate such action. Some of the 65 persons interviewed were of the opinion that if politicization had taken place, it would have been attempted by the then incumbent Administration regardless of political party in power.

The 65 persons interviewed were practically unanimous in the opinion that the gathering, assembling, and reporting of the statistical data was free of politics. This

was based on the high regard for the ability, integrity, and professionalism of the technicians concerned. No criticism was expressed concerning the reliability and validity of the statistical data.

At the time of the discontinuance of the BLS press conferences, the news media were sharply critical of this action. However, during the Subcommittee staff's interviews with them, the members of the press did not appear to be disturbed or particularly concerned that the conferences were no longer being held. The original criticism has diminished substantially with the passage of time and is practically non-existent now. The knowledgeable reporters found that they could prepare their news stories based on the expanded BLS news releases and readily available additional information if needed obtained from BLS technicians. This was particularly true for the reporters with the major newspapers and press service. The fears of political influence or alteration of statistical data which existed at the time of the discontinuance of the press conferences have diminished to the point where there is little, if any, concern now.

Several of the interviewees felt that the press briefings should never have been started and that the BLS technical personnel should never have been involved. Rather, if held at all, the briefings should have been conducted by representatives of the Administration or by political personalities which would have put the briefings in the proper perspective, such as separating the statistical data from interpretation and comment. The question of press conferences does not seem to be a matter of interest at the current time.

The latest reorganizations which have taken place at BLS and Census have been the subject of consideration since about the middle 1950's. The principal objective of the reorganization was to segregate the data gathering, assembling, and reporting from the planning for and analysis of the data. The Office of Management and Budget directive instructing the agencies to reorganize was issued in July 1971. However, the directive in draft form had been prepared, based on previous considerations, before the discontinuance, of the BLS press conferences. The Subcommittee's staff found no evidence that the two were related. None of the 65 persons interviewed expressed the opinion that politics played a major role in bringing about the reorganization.

Several interviewees felt that major advantages would be realized by the reorganization such as (1) better utilization of data personnel, i.e., enumerators, as well as technical employees, and (2) improvement in the reliability and validity of the statistical data, i.e., closing

the credibility gap. It was the general consensus of the 65 persons interviewed that they were not concerned about the personnel appointed to fill key positions created by the reorganization.

The general opinion was that all key personnel were highly respected and well qualified professionals. Also, that none of the appointments to key operating positions were made solely on the basis of political preference. At BLS all appointments to key positions, except for one, were filled by long-term BLS personnel. The exception was the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner from outside BLS who is considered a highly qualified and recognized professional. At the time of the staff's study the Bureau of the Census had not appointed an outsider to a key operating position, but was considering one such appointment. The individual under consideration is a recognized specialist in his field who, it is believed, can make a substantial contribution in the ADP area at Census.

While appointments to some of the key positions have been subject to question, principally by employees at both BLS and Census, the Subcommittee's staff found no evidence that required technical competence was sacrificed or lessened by any political influence that may have been exercised in the selection of the personnel concerned. Further, no basis was found to question the two agencies' decisions to carry out what are normal management prerogatives.

CONCLUSION

The Subcommittee's staff found no supportive evidence of conspiratory politicization of Federal statistics. However, under the present decentralized system of collecting and analyzing statistics, it is indeed possible and could be politically advantageous for an incumbent Administration to politically influence and utilize the various statistical agencies. Thereby, the Committee believes that this is a matter which warrants constant vigil to insure the continuation of public confidence in the reliability and validity of Federal statistics and to avoid creating a credibility gap in Government information. The Committee suggests that the Subcommittee consider conducting similar studies in this area from time to time.

Based on this concern and aforementioned considerations, the Committee believes that there is considerable merit in establishing a central independent statistical agency to collect and process all general purpose statistics for the Federal Government. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Subcommittee inquire further

into this matter to determine the feasibility and desirability of recommending such an agency.

Appendix

PERSONS INTERVIEWED DURING STUDY

Department of Labor

James D. Hodgson, Secretary of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Geoffrey Moore, Commissioner

Ben Burdetsky, Deputy Commissioner

Harold Goldstein, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Manpower Structure and Trends

Hyman Kaitz, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Current Employment Analysis

Joel Popkin, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Prices and Living Conditions

Robert Dorman, Chief, Division of Industry Employment Statistics

Helen Lamale, Chief, Division of Living Conditions

Janet Norwood, Chief, Division of Prices and Price Indexes

Department of Commerce

Social and Economic Statistics Administration

Harold C. Passer, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Administrator

Joseph R. Wright, Deputy Administrator

Bureau of Economic Analysis

George Jaszi, Director

Bureau of the Census

George H. Brown, Director

V. Lance Tarrance, Special Assistant to the Director

Matthew Ericson, Legal Counsel

Walter F. Ryan, Associate Director for Economic Fields

Paul R. Squires, Associate Director, Data Collection and Processing

Conrad Tauer, Associate Director for Demographic Fields

James R. Pepal, Chief, Computer Services Division

Milton Eisen, Chief, Construction Statistics Division

Elmer Biles, Chief, Industry Division

Martin Boisen, Chief, Statistical Methods Division

David P. McNelis, Chief, Governments Division

Herman P. Miller, Chief, Population Division

Earle J. Gerson, Acting Assistant Chief, Demographic Surveys Division

Edwin Goldfield, Chief, International Statistical Programs Division

Robert B. Voight, Chief, Data User Services Office

Sol Dolleck, Assistant Chief, International Statistical Programs Division

John Spencer, Research Specialist
Office of Public Information
James Berger, Information Officer

Office of Management and Budget
Julius Shiskin, Chief Statistician

Department of Agriculture
Harry C. Trelogan, Administrator, Statistical Reporting
Service
Quentin W. West, Administrator, Economic Research
Service

Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Theodore D. Woolsey, Director, National Center for
Health Statistics

Civil Service Commission
Paul Katz

*Former employees of the Departments of Labor and
Commerce*

Dallas M. Coors, Commerce (Bureau of International
Commerce)
Joseph F. Daly, Commerce (Census)
Robert F. Drury, Commerce (Census)
A. Ross Eckler, Commerce (Census)
Richard M. Scammon, Commerce (Census)
Peter Henle, Labor (BLS)
Abe Rothman, Labor (BLS)
Howard Stambler, Labor (BLS)

News Media

Bernie Calame, Wall Street Journal
Ray Cole, Jack Anderson's Staff *
Neil Gilbride, Associated Press
Tony Marro, Newsday
Phillip Meyer, Knight Newspapers
Art Pine, Baltimore Sun
Dick Ritter, Federal Times
Jack Rosenthal, New York Times *
Ron Smith, Federal Times

Congressional Staffs

Loughlin F. McHugh, Joint Economic Committee
John R. Stark, Joint Economic Committee
Sandy Stein, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III's Office
Hal Wolman, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III's Office
William G. Phillips, House Subcommittee on Foreign
Operations and Government Information

Others

John Aiken, Federal Statistics Users Conference
John Beresford, Data Use and Access Labs
Michael Couzens, Brookings Institution
Dr. Rendigs Fels, Secretary-Treasurer, American Eco-
nomic Association *
J. Kenneth Galbraith, President, American Economic
Association *
Rudy Oswald, AFL-CIO
Charles L. Schultze, Brookings Institution (Formerly
Director, Bureau of the Budget)
Dr. Wm. H. Shaw, President, American Statistical Asso-
ciation

*Telephone interviews

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

ANNUAL HOUSING SURVEY

The Bureau of the Census has agreed to conduct an annual housing survey for the Department of Housing and Urban Development beginning in early 1973. The objective of this survey is to provide a current and ongoing series of data on the size, composition, and pricing of the housing inventory; the changes in the inventory resulting from losses and from new construction; the total number of vacancies, including separate data for

those for rent or for sale; the physical condition of the inventory; the characteristics of the occupants; and the characteristics of recent movers.

This survey is divided into two components: A national sample and a standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA) sample. The national sample will consist of approximately 60,000 housing units. Interviewing for this sample will be spread over a 2-3 month period each year. The SMSA sample will consist of three sets of 20

SMSA's each. One set of 20 SMSA's will be interviewed each year with the three sets rotating from year to year. In each set of 20, four of the SMSA's will have a sample of 15,000 housing units each (a total of 60,000) and the remaining 16 SMSA's will have a sample of 5,000 housing units each (a total of 80,000). Interviewing for the SMSA sample will be spread throughout the entire year.

A pretest of the questionnaire was held in the Louisville, Ky., and the Worcester, Mass., SMSA's during the week of September 25, 1972. (LEONARD J. NORRY, HOUSING DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

In recognition of the growing need for a standard occupational classification, work was initiated several years ago under the leadership of the Office of Management and Budget. Overall guidance is provided by the Occupational Classification Committee representing Federal departments and agencies concerned with statistics on occupations. The initial efforts led to the development of a draft for professional and technical occupations which was incorporated into the 1970 Census of Popula-

SPECIAL CENSUS REPORT ON 1970 OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

The Bureau of the Census recently published Technical Paper No. 26, *1970 Occupation and Industry Classification Systems in Terms of Their 1960 Occupation and Industry Elements*. This report is designed to aid data users in comparing 1960 and 1970 census data by describing the types of revisions made to the 1960 classification systems in developing the 1970 systems and by qualifying the interrelationships between the two systems.

The 1960 occupation and industry data are presented in a reclassified form, according to the 1970 systems. For nearly all the 1970 occupation and industry categories, the report lists each 1960 category which forms part of a 1970 category as well as the percentage and numerical amount of the 1960 group transferred to the 1970 category. A 100,000 card sample of the 1960 census experienced civilian labor force was used to make a quantitative analysis of the composition of each category by job title.

Copies of this report (68 pages, 65 cents) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (JOAN HEINKEL, POPULATION DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

tion and preliminary work has since been done on a draft for clerical occupations. Nevertheless, progress has been slow.

Two factors have changed this situation recently. First, the revision of the Standard Industrial Classification manual for 1972 has been completed, allowing the classification staff at the Office of Management and Budget to devote more of their time to the occupational classification. Milo Peterson will be concerned with coordinating and administrative details and Cynthia Wiggins will be developing definitions. Secondly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has detailed Emanuel Weinstein to work as technical advisor on the project until the first draft of the entire classification can be completed. Mr. Weinstein is now developing the framework for the managerial division.

This group and OMB's consultant on occupational statistics, Ann Miller of the University of Pennsylvania, are actively at work preparing materials for interagency consideration. It is anticipated that additional technical working groups of the Occupational Classification Committee will soon be established for each of the major divisions of the classifications still to be drafted. With this renewed work on the project, it is hoped that the preliminary version of the complete classification will be ready for publication and public review by December of 1973.

In developing the classification, the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* and the occupational classes of the 1970 Census of Population will be used as basic material. The *International Standard Classification of Occupations* and specialized classifications will also be considered. (MILO PETERSON, STATISTICAL POLICY DIVISION, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.)

FIVE-CITY HOUSING SURVEY TO TEST PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING POOR HOUSING

Field work was completed in five cities during the summer of 1972 for a survey to test new questions and procedures developed to identify poor housing or to delineate blighted neighborhoods.

From 1940 to 1960, census statistics on structural condition and the availability of complete plumbing facilities have been the major source of estimates of the "substandard" housing in the United States. However, the data on structural condition have been found to contain serious problems with response reliability. Moreover, the number of housing units without complete plumbing facilities has been declining steadily since

1940. It has become generally recognized that not only the structure and its facilities but also the neighborhood environment must be considered in assessing the quality of housing. For this purpose, such factors as the adequacy of police and fire protection, garbage and trash collection, public water and sewage disposal services and the proximity of dangerous or obnoxious land uses are all important.

It is from this broader perspective that new queries were designed to be tested in the five city housing survey. The lines of inquiry tested this summer dealt with the workability and adequacy of public utilities, plumbing, and mechanical equipment; visible structural problems; privacy; the frequency of garbage collection and the presence of abandoned automobiles or boarded-up buildings; municipal facilities; and attitudes about housing and neighborhoods. The cities in the pilot survey were selected to present a variety of locations, sizes, and population characteristics and included Trenton, N. J.; Chicago, Ill.; Memphis, Tenn.; Brownsville, Tex. and Portland, Ore.

The field work was carried out in two stages: In Stage 1, structural and neighborhood conditions were rated by six teams of three members each composed primarily of senior staff from the Census Bureau, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Management and Budget, National Association of Real Estate Boards, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and private consultants. Team membership was rotated to insure that no one rater accompanied another more than one day. Each sample address was rated independently by two teams. The team rating was based on exterior inspection only, except when teams could enter to observe the common halls of multiunit structures. There was no contact with household members during this stage. In Stage 2, in each city, a household interview was conducted by specially trained interviewers at each sample unit. The questionnaire included standard census questions on population and housing as well as the new questions. In the five cities, a total of 4356 structural ratings and 2178 personal interviews were conducted.

The sample blocks in each city were selected from five strata based on rent and value statistics. Sampling of these blocks was completed in such a manner as to provide an over-sampling of blocks in poor areas; 60 blocks were included in two cities and 81 blocks in the three other cities. The housing units in each block to be visited for rating and personal interview were determined by a simultaneous listing and sampling oper-

ation conducted by census staff, independent of the Stage 1 rating or Stage 2 household enumeration.

In analyzing the data, the team subjective ratings obtained in Stage 1 will be used as a yardstick to determine if the new questions tested in Stage 2 actually are effective in identifying housing and neighborhoods which the experts regarded as poor.

While no formal published reports are planned, preliminary findings are expected to be available by November 1972 and the final analysis to be completed early in 1973. (JOSEPH M. SELOVE, HOUSING DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

UNIFORM MEDICAL PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY

At present several different systems are used to identify medical procedures. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain comparable data about health programs in general and the two major Federal programs, Medicare and Medicaid, specifically. In addition, it appears that past redefinition of medical procedural terminology has been associated with significant escalation of cost, so it is important that redefinition of procedural terminology be carefully designed, pretested and controlled.

During 1970 and 1971 the organizations that maintain the two major medical procedure systems significantly redefined their terminology. These systems are the Current Procedural-Terminology (CPT) maintained by the American Medical Association, and the Blue Shield system.

An initial review of data from California, which uses a slightly modified version of the new CPT, reveals that in the category of "visits" which is the single most often reported physician service under part "B" of Medicare, the redefinition was associated with a cost escalation in excess of 20%.

In view of the potential cost escalation that redefinition appears to present, the Bureau of Health Insurance, Social Security Administration, declared a moratorium on changes to procedural terminology in all Medicare programs. Since the moratorium has been in effect, pressure from the carriers and the American Medical Association to change to their new systems has been increasing. So that the moratorium may be removed as soon as possible, the Health Services and Mental Health Administration (HSMHA) has agreed to have a new uniform medical procedural terminology and code (UMPT&C) for use by the Federal programs in early 1973.

NEW 1970 CENSUS PUBLICATIONS

In addition to concern over cost escalation, HSMHA is interested in developing a uniform procedural terminology which will yield data for use in the utilization and peer review process, one of the keystones to the evaluation of the quality of medical services.

The task of developing a uniform medical procedural terminology was assigned to HSMHA by Dr. DuVal, HEW Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs. To assist HSMHA in this effort an advisory group consisting of representatives of organized medicine, medical education, hospitals, the Blue Shield organization, independent carriers, Social and Rehabilitation Service and the Social Security Administration was established. The advisory group approved the following plan of implementation:

1. Since 84 terms (out of a total of more than 4,000) constitute over 90% of the procedures performed, the initial effort will address less than 100 terms.
2. The new terminology is to be tested for approximately 90 days in several geographic locations. It will be tested against both the new CPT and the new Blue Shield system. The test will generate the data necessary to determine the cost escalation potential of the new terminology.

The project is now being viewed in terms of seven modules, namely, (1) terminology, (2) coding, (3) standard format, (4) testing and evaluation, (5) education and training, (6) conversation, and (7) implementation. Module 7 would be a part of putting the revised system into operation within a specified period following acceptance of the outcome of the test.

A trial redefinition of the most frequently used terms has been developed and discussed with a small sounding-board group. An approach to the coding problem has been made by the National Bureau of Standards. Moshman Associates, Inc., has a contract for developing the test design, data collection, reduction and analysis for five planned test sites: New York City; New Jersey, South Carolina, Northern California, and Indiana.

Criteria for acceptance of a uniform medical procedural terminology comprising the most frequently used terms are feasibility, acceptability (by providers), and minimal potential escalation or deescalation. The testing module has only recently begun. Final results are expected by July 1973. (WILLIAM H. KIRBY, JR., M.D., DIRECTOR, TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, OPERATIONS ANALYSIS, OPPE, HSMHA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE.)

The Bureau of the Census has begun issuing the hard-cover edition of the 1970 Census of Housing, Volume I, *Housing Characteristics for States, Cities, and Counties*. This volume consists of 58 parts, one for the United States, one for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and for the outlying areas—Guam, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Canal Zone, and Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Parts 1 to 53 contain two chapters, A and B, originally published respectively in the HC(1)-A and HC(1)-B series of individual reports. Parts 54 to 58 consist of the HC(1)-A reports for the outlying areas. The paperbound reports have been assembled into this volume in order to provide durable publications for library and other use.

The subjects covered in this volume include tenure; occupancy and vacancy characteristics; utilization characteristics (number of rooms, number of persons, persons per room, and bedrooms); structural and plumbing characteristics (kitchen and plumbing facilities, bathrooms, units in structure, mobile homes, year structure built, access to unit, source of water, sewage disposal, basement, and elevator in structure); equipment (heating, air conditioning, telephone); fuels used for heating and cooking; appliances (clothes washer, clothes dryer, dishwasher, etc.); automobiles available; ownership of second home; and financial characteristics (value, rent).

In addition, for areas with Negro and/or Spanish heritage population of specified size, the volume includes data for these groups. Statistics are shown for some or all of the following areas: States (by urban, rural non-farm, and rural farm residence), counties, standard metropolitan statistical areas, urbanized areas, and places of 1,000 inhabitants or more.

The second report in the population series PC(2) *Subject Reports* was recently issued. Reports in this series generally concentrate on the presentation of national and regional data for a particular subject. The present report "Migration Between State Economic Areas," designated PC(2)-2E, includes statistics on the movement of persons 5 years old and over between SEA's. Data are shown also for Negro migrants in SEA's with a Negro population of specified size. The focus of this report is on detailed streams of migration; therefore, the only characteristics shown for migrants are age, sex, and race. Extensive cross-tabulation of social and economic

characteristics will appear in other 1970 census subject reports on migration.

Other 1970 census reports are now available in the following series:

Volume I Part A, Number of Inhabitants (hard cover)

PC(1)-A Number of Inhabitants

PC(1)-B General Population Characteristics

PC(1)-C General Social and Economic Characteristics

PC(1)-D Detailed Characteristics

PC(S1) Population Supplementary Reports

Volume I Housing Characteristics for States, Cities, and Counties (hard cover)

HC(1)-A General Housing Characteristics

HC(1)-B Detailed Housing Characteristics

HC(2) Metropolitan Housing Characteristics

HC(3) Block Statistics

HC(S1) Housing Supplementary Reports

PHC(1) Census Tracts

PHC(2) General Demographic Trends for Metropolitan Areas, 1960 to 1970

PHC(3) Employment Profiles of Selected Low-Income Areas

Descriptive announcements and order forms are available from the Publications Distribution Section, Social and Economic Statistics Administration, Washington, D.C. 20233. (SHERRY L. COURTLAND, DEMOGRAPHIC CENSUS STAFF, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

SIXTH EDITION OF METROPOLITAN AREA STATISTICS

The Bureau of the Census, Social and Economic Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce, has released the sixth edition of *Metropolitan Area Statistics*, as reprinted from the 1972 edition of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. The 66-page booklet presents recent data for the 148 standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) in the United States having 200,000 or more inhabitants in 1970. A total of 216 items is shown for each SMSA, including 87 items from the 1970 Census of Population and Housing. Of special interest are population data on such subjects as family income, school enrollment, foreign stock, Spanish heritage, and transportation to work. Data from the 1970 census on total population, density, race, age composition, school enrollment, and housing units are given separately for inside and outside central cities. Among other subjects

are vital statistics, health, employment and unemployment, housing, government, social security benefits, public assistance, crime rates, banking, manufactures, and business.

For New England, data are shown for both metropolitan State economic areas (SEA's) and SMSA's wherever it was possible to do so. SEA's consist of counties; SMSA's in New England, of towns and cities. SEA data are included for New England because, for a large number of items shown, only county data were available to serve as a basis for metropolitan area figures.

Copies of *Metropolitan Area Statistics* may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or any U.S. Department of Commerce field office. The price per copy is 35 cents; a 25-percent discount is allowed on orders of 100 copies or more sent to the same address. (HELEN TEIR, DATA USER SERVICES OFFICE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

POPULATION ESTIMATES BY AGE AND SEX

"Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Age and Sex: April 1, 1970, to July 1, 1972," *Current Population Reports*, Series B-25, No. 490, was recently published by the Bureau of the Census. Estimates are shown for 5-year age groups and for other selected age groups. Data are shown for the total population including Armed Forces overseas, the total resident population, and the civilian resident population.

Copies of the report (8 pp., 10 cents) are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or any of the field offices of the U.S. Department of Commerce. (ROBERT WARREN, POPULATION DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

DISQUALIFICATION OF DRAFTEES FOR MILITARY SERVICE FOR MEDICAL REASONS

A report on disqualification of draftees for military service for medical reasons has been released by the Department of Defense. The report traces the leading medical diagnoses responsible for the recent pronounced increase in the medical disqualification rates of draftees examined for military service. It examines the standards for these diagnoses, as well as any changes that have occurred in these standards or in their application, and proposes certain modifications in the standards. It rec-

ommends that serious consideration be given to a general reassessment of the existing medical standards, which are basically "combat oriented."

Copies of this report (Manpower Research Report No. MA 72-1) can be obtained from the Office, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower Research and Utilization), Washington, D.C. 20301. The report was prepared by Bernard D. Karpinos, Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO).

BIRTH EXPECTATIONS AND FERTILITY

"Birth Expectations and Fertility: June 1972" (Advance Reports), *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, No. 240, has been published by the Bureau of the Census. Data on births to date, additional births expected, and total births expected are shown for reporting wives 18 to 39 years old. Data on children ever born are shown for ever-married women 15 to 49 years old. The report includes some socioeconomic detail.

Copies of the report (8 pp., 10 cents) are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or any of the field offices of the U.S. Department of Commerce. (CAMPBELL GIBSON, POPULATION DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

REVISED CONSUMER CREDIT ESTIMATES

Federal Reserve estimates of consumer instalment and noninstalment credit have been revised for the period from 1965 to date. The revised series, which are published in the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* for October 1972, incorporate adjustment of sample-based estimates to reflect recent benchmarks, computation of new seasonal factors, provision of certain additional detail by type of credit, and extension to earlier years of a recent reorganization of institutional classifications.

The cumulative effect of these changes has been to raise the estimate of total consumer credit outstanding on December 31, 1971, by about \$1.2 billion, or 0.8%. The net increase reflects an upward adjustment of nearly \$1.8 billion in the instalment credit share of the total and a downward adjustment of \$0.6 billion in the non-

instalment share. The related estimates of extensions of consumer instalment debt have been raised moderately; estimates of repayments have also been raised, but by a somewhat smaller amount.

Reprints of "Revision of Consumer Credit Statistics," from the *Federal Reserve Bulletin* for October 1972, may be obtained from Publications Services, Division of Administrative Services, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. Historical data for selected series not included in the tables which accompany the article (bank-card credit, check credit, and mobile-home credit) are available on request from the Mortgage, Agricultural, and Consumer Finance Section of the Board. (DAVID HULL, MORTGAGE, AGRICULTURAL, AND CONSUMER FINANCE SECTION, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.)

YIELDS ON NEWLY ISSUED CORPORATE BONDS

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is now publishing a weekly time series of yields on new issues of corporate bonds. The series represents the hypothetical yield on a "standard bond", which is defined as a utility issue rates Aaa by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., carrying 5-year call protection, and underwritten by a process of competitive bidding. In any given week there are relatively few new public offerings of bonds. The appearance of an issue with the same set of characteristics as the standard bond is even more infrequent. This necessitated the development of a statistical model which adjusts yields on observed issues to what they would have been if they had the same characteristics as the standard bond.

Details of the model, the estimation procedures, and discussion of the results will be presented in a forthcoming Federal Reserve Staff Economic Study which will be summarized in the *Federal Reserve Bulletin*. More information about the series is contained in the September 1972 issue of the *Bulletin*. Weekly data beginning January 1, 1960 are available upon request from the Capital Markets Section, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. (MICHAEL LAUB, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD.)

SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

December 1972

Release dates scheduled by agencies responsible for the principal economic indicators of the Federal Government are given below. These are target dates that will be met in the majority of cases. Occasionally agencies may be able to release data a day or so earlier or may be forced by unavoidable compilation problems to release a report one or more days later.

A similar schedule will be shown here each month

covering release dates for the following month. The indicators are identified by the titles of the releases in which they are included; the source agency; the release identification number where applicable; and the *Business Conditions Digest* series numbers for all BCD series included, shown in parentheses. Release date information for additional series can be found in publications of the sponsoring agencies.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data for</i>
December 1	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders, Census, M3-1 (20, 65, 852)	October
1	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69)	October
4	Consumer Credit, Federal Reserve (FRS), G.19 (66, 113)	October
5	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A (506)	October
5	U.S. Government Security Yields and Prices, FRS, G.14 (114)	November
5	Plant and Equipment Expenditures, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), (61)	3 Q and 1972
6	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending Nov. 29
7	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending Nov. 29
7	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending Dec. 6
7	Wholesale Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), (55, 58, 750, 751, 752)	November
7	Retail Trade Report (Press release), Census, (54)	October
8	The Employment Situation, BLS, (1, 21, 40, 42, 43, 44, 841-848)	November
8	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW	October
11	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press release) Census, (54)	November

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data for</i>
December 13	Balance of Payments on Current Account and Long-Term Capital, BEA (519)	3Q '72
13	Quarterly/Financial Report for Manufacturing Corporations, Federal Trade Commission	3Q '72
13	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending Dec. 6
14	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending Dec. 6
14	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending Dec. 13
14	Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, BEA, (31, 56, 71, 851)	October
15	Manufacturers' Inventories and Sales Expectations (Press release), Census (410, 412, 414)	4Q '72 and 1Q '73
15	Business Indexes (Industrial Production and Components), FRS, G.12.3 (47,853)	November
15	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD, (118)	December 1
19	Bank Rates on Short-Term Business Loans, FRS, E.2 (67)	Nov. 1-15
19	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29)	November
20	Personal Income, BEA (52, 53)	November
20	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending Dec. 13
21	Money Stock Measures FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending Dec. 13
21	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending Dec. 20
21	Revised corporate profits and national income, BEA	3Q '72
21	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders, Census M3-1 (6, 24, 25, 96, 647, 648)	November
22	Consumer Price Index, BLS, (781, 782, 783, 784)	November
22	Real Earnings, BLS, (859)	November
26	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116)	November
27	Advance Business Conditions Digest, BEA: (12, 33, 69, 813, 817)	October
	(5, 10, 17, 45, 59, 62, 810, 811, 814, 815, 816, 820, 825, 830, 853, 860)	November
27	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (500, 502, 512)	November
27	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending Dec. 20
28	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending Dec. 20
28	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending Dec. 27
28	Defense Indicators, BEA (625)	November
29	Agricultural Prices (Agriculture)	Mid-Dec.

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SELECTED NEW REPORTING PLANS AND FORMS

The following listing gives brief descriptions of selected new reporting plans and forms approved in the previous month by the Office of Management and Budget under the provisions of the Federal Reports Act. These descriptions provide information on surveys and data-collection programs currently being started or soon to be started.

Atomic Energy Commission

Nuclear technician survey-supply and demand forms (annual).—Approximately 900 firms holding AEC licenses will be surveyed to obtain present and estimated future employment of nuclear technicians. The firms will be asked to provide detailed occupational data.

Approximately 150 training institutes which have nuclear and related training programs will also be surveyed. Data will be obtained on the duration of and enrollment in all these programs.

Department of Defense

Defense Supply Agency

Listing of "other plant equipment" (singletime).—There is a distinction between Industrial Plant Equipment (IPE) and Other Plant Equipment (OPE) which are monitored by separate DOD organizations. The purposes of this form are (1) to control inventories at the plant level, and (2) to determine whether discrepancies in description and cost have resulted over time and whether items carried as OPE are in fact IPE. This form will be used to verify records at a sample of contractor locations.

Federal Power Commission

Survey of circuit breakers, power transformers, and reactors on U.S. power systems (singletime).—This survey is an investigation under the Trade Expansion Act (PL 87-794) for information to determine the effects on national security of imports of these items. The survey is being conducted in cooperation with the Office of Emergency Preparedness. Electric utility companies will be asked to provide facts on location, price, service life, etc., plus evaluations of service life and reliability.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Pilot demand experiment baseline survey (singletime).—Test related to the demand phase of the Experimental Housing Allowance Program. Related experiments will be conducted on supply and administrative factors. Questions in the demand baseline survey concern expenditure for and consumption of housing, income, satisfaction with housing and neighborhood, participation in the community, maintenance of the housing unit, and landlord tenant relations. (Further information available from John A. Dietrich, HUD.)

Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Survey of availability of live-in domestic workers (singletime).—A sample of three hundred individuals who advertised for "live-in" domestics in the New York Metropolitan Area will be surveyed by mail and telephone to determine whether their ad was successful.

PERSONNEL NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Division of Research and Statistics: JAMES GOETZINGER, formerly an Economist in the Statistical Management and Control Section, has been promoted to Chief of that Section.

Selected personnel from various sections in the Division have been grouped to form a new section—the Mortgage, Agricultural, and Consumer Finance Section which will deal primarily with financial aspects of the behavior of small economic units. ROBERT M. FISHER, formerly a Senior Economist in the Capital Markets Section, has been appointed Chief of the new section.

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION

Office of Economics: JOHN W. WILSON, Division of Economic Studies, has been promoted to Chief of the Division. He succeeds Donald A. Murry who has returned to the University of Missouri (St. Louis campus). RALPH E. MILLER, formerly in private consulting, and ROBERT G. UHLER, formerly instructor at Vanderbilt University, have joined the staff of the Division. ROBERT BERMAN, formerly with CONSAD, has joined the Division of Econometric Analysis as an econometrician.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Health Services and Mental Health Administration: EDWARD B. PERRIN has been named Deputy Director of the National Center for Health Statistics. Dr. Perrin was formerly professor and chairman of the Department of Biostatistics, School of

Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics: JANET L. NORWOOD has been appointed Associate Deputy Commissioner for Data Analysis. Dr. Norwood previously served as Chief of the Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes.

Manpower Administration: FRANCES M. WATTENBERG, formerly with the Office of Financial and Management Information Systems, is now serving as Special Assistant for Statistical Review in the Office of Policy, Evaluation and Research.

UNITED NATIONS

SIMON A. GOLDBERG, formerly Assistant Chief Statistician for Integration and Development, Statistics Canada, has been appointed Director of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, effective 1 November 1972.

DEATHS

HARRY HOFFNER, a statistician with the Office of Management and Budget, died suddenly on November 4. Mr. Hoffner worked in the Statistical Policy Division in the area of health statistics.

CAROLINE H. CAGLE, a member of the staff of the Banking Section, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, died as the result of an airplane crash while vacationing in Greece in October.

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