

tion's worst economic problems, including the existence of persistent and substantial labor surplus areas. It may well be that by anticipating shifts in defense spending and other factors in our economy and acting accordingly, industry and government, working cooperatively, could have prevented distressed areas. Such a study should include the possibility of expanding the Office of Emergency Planning to perform the following functions:

(a) Collecting suggestions and projections of future U.S. Government activity affecting the economy.

(b) Making a survey of all leading industries and other productive areas of the economy to determine their long-range plans and potential problems.

This information, properly formulated, could be used cooperatively by Government and industry in making long-range economic plans and projections.

EXECUTIVE ACTION—ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES

32. *Continue active and increasing effective implementation of governmental policy regarding small business participation in Government procurement*

The subcommittee has consistently supported a strong governmental policy to assure small concerns a fair opportunity to compete for Government contracts. Because of the interest of this and other congressional committees, an active and effective program of assistance to small concerns exists within the various procurement activities. In addition, Congress has authorized a program of procurement set asides for small business. This subcommittee has supported this program and continues to do so. It hopes that the scope of the set-aside program will be broadened to make an even greater percentage of Government procurement available to small concerns in those cases where sufficient competition among small bidders can assure competitive prices.

The small and independent American businessman is the first to suffer in depressed areas. Accordingly, this subcommittee strongly urges that existing programs and those recommended in this report to assist depressed areas be pursued vigorously along with all other established programs of assistance to small concerns. Such an effective governmental program fully supported at all levels will serve to strengthen the American small business community and the entire national economy.