

the greatest possible use of our statistical resources we must preserve the confidentiality of individual responses to statistical inquiries which we have always recognized as the foundation of our Federal data collecting activities.

A committee of the Social Science Research Council discussed the problems and prospects for improvements in statistical data storage and access with me and with members of my staff on several occasions in 1963, 1964, and 1965. It prepared a report to the Social Science Research Council which highlighted certain of the problems of accessibility of statistical data and made proposals for setting up a National Data Center as a way of dealing with these problems. The Bureau of the Budget's Office of Statistical Standards assisted the committee of the Social Science Research Council in assembling certain materials for their report. A copy of their report has been provided to this committee and has had some circulation among interested persons in Government and the academic community.

In order to examine some of the problems of a Statistical Data Center more closely, the Bureau of the Budget employed Dr. Edgar S. Dunn, Jr., as a consultant, to study the feasibility and advantages of a statistical data center and to prepare a report setting forth his conclusions. Dr. Dunn became conversant with many of the problems of data storage and access in the Federal Government when he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs. He has also had a longtime interest in these problems as an economist and statistician. He has studied many of the aspects of data storage and accessibility as a member of a committee of the American Statistical Association set up for this purpose. Recently, he has been chairman of that committee. When he was a Budget Bureau consultant arrangements were also made for him to consult with technical staff of the Bureau of Standards. His report has been furnished to this committee and has been available to interested persons both in and outside of Government.

At the present time a task force appointed by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget is considering "measures which should be taken to improve the storage of and access to U.S. Government statistics." The task force members are Carl Kaysen, chairman, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Charles Holt, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; Richard Holton, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.; George Kozmetsky, Teledyne Corp., Los Angeles, Calif.; Russell Morrison, Standard Statistics and Standard & Poors, New York, N.Y.; and Richard Ruggles, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. The task force has not as yet submitted a report.

I have stated that the Bureau of the Budget wishes to utilize the technological advances in data processing and handling associated with the computer to make more effective use of available statistics in meeting demands for information required to deal with today's problems. More and more we are coming to realize that the problems with which we must deal are combinations of many factors and can only be diagnosed and solved by information which relates the various factors involved. Such interrelations of information by the development of a statistical data center need not pose a threat to individual privacy if such a center is governed by restrictions which prevent the release, either within Government or to persons outside Government, of information about individuals or business units.