

Mr. RUGGLES. No, I am not.

Mr. HORTON. You work for them, is that it?

Mr. RUGGLES. No; the way the SSRC report came about, was that the American Economic Association requested the Social Science Research Council to undertake a study of the problem of the preservation and use of economic data.

I was asked by the Social Science Research Council if I would chair a committee to study the problem. This committee studied the problem for 3 to 4 years, conferring with the various government agencies and so on, and after that time brought out a report.

Mr. HORTON. That was the so-called Ruggles report?

Mr. RUGGLES. That is correct.

Mr. HORTON. The council is a private organization, is it not?

Mr. RUGGLES. Yes.

Mr. HORTON. Would the members be users of this type of information?

Mr. RUGGLES. No, they would not.

Mr. HORTON. They would not have any call on it?

Mr. RUGGLES. No interest or function.

Mr. HORTON. Do they call on the Federal Government now for any of these services?

Mr. RUGGLES. No, I would not be able to testify on this because I know nothing of their finances. I think they are mainly supported by Rockefeller and Ford and other foundations.

Mr. HORTON. I was thinking in terms of statistical information.

Mr. RUGGLES. No, they do not do any research work whatsoever.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I think you brought out before that grantees of that organization would make use of it.

Mr. RUGGLES. The SSRC gives scholarships and fellowships to scholars. It is like the other foundations and research groups that give away money.

Mr. HORTON. The grantees may be users of that information?

Mr. RUGGLES. That is right. In another connection, my wife and I are doing a Social Science Research Council Project at the Census Bureau on price-cost behavior of manufacturing establishments. This study is done under elaborate safeguards of disclosure, you will be happy to learn.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I am.

Mr. RUGGLES. In our research we never see the individual firm or establishment data. Nevertheless, the computer was used on establishment data for the first time in 1954. Methods were devised on the computer to match the individual establishment records to provide a continuous report for the same establishment for a period of time.

The purpose of this project was to study, for producers as a group, whether in a period of high demand, producers tend to raise prices more than their costs, or whether they tend to narrow their margins and are squeezed. This is important for problems of fiscal policy in the Nation, in worrying about how to dampen a boom, the rule of wage-price guidelines, and so on. There is currently a lot of interest in this sort of question. Although we are not interested in the individual establishment we had to get data for each establishment so that we could see how on an average they all behaved. This is the sort of work which the Social Science Research Council, together with the Census