

to a questionnaire from the committee, designated in late 1965 and early 1966 as Government programs that are directed primarily toward the maintenance or development of people in the United States or, alternatively, have as a secondary effect a substantial impact on the development of our human resources.

In its request for information, the committee expressed particular interest in programs that involve education and training, rehabilitation, employment and reemployment, health, children's welfare, income-maintenance, family housing, and regional development; the provision of facilities for such purposes; and also research and development activities directed to these purposes.

Detailed statements received from the several departments and agencies of the Government are reproduced in part III of this report. These statements cover the objectives, history, scope, level of operations, administrative coordination, expectations for 1970, and economic aspects and impacts of each of the many Federal programs that bear upon the development of human resources. Part III is necessarily large. It deals with many different programs, and many of the statements are quite detailed. As the committee anticipated, respondents varied in enthusiasm for the inquiry, in depth and length of their expositions, their interpretations of the questions, and their facility in identifying economic aspects and impacts of the several programs.

General statements in this part and part II provide commentaries and qualifying information. For background and perspective, part I presents quantitative summary estimates of U.S. expenditures for human resources programs over an extended period and by all levels of government. This part includes some discussion of conceptual and analytical issues implicit in the economic assessment of human resources programs. It draws upon the program statements in part III for illustrative materials.

Part II is largely explanatory and methodological. It reviews the agencies' replies to the committee questionnaire, to indicate difficulties the respondents encountered and consequent limitations upon the usefulness of data in part III.

INITIAL RECONNAISSANCE

For many years, the Joint Economic Committee has directed attention to the human resources needs and problems of the Nation. Since 1949, the committee has published 21 separate documents dealing with unemployment, poverty, low income, and related issues. The 1966 annual report of the committee¹ pointed out that the capabilities of human beings are the most productive force in the economy; accordingly, investment in the development of our people is the most productive type of capital investment and the prime source of national economic progress.

In earlier reports, it has been necessary either to indicate the economic significance of Government programs broadly and summarily or to select for analysis specialized areas of public concern, such as the unemployed, low-income families, full-employment policies, medical care, the costs of public education, and other topics.

¹ Joint Economic Report on the 1966 Economic Report of the President, March 1966, H. Rept. 1334.