

quarantine activities, primarily directed at the control of communicable diseases. Under its mandate, the PHS is engaged in activities designed to assist State and local authorities in the development, operation, and maintenance of programs for the prevention and control of food-borne illness.

PART II. DATA BEARING ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS AND IMPACTS OF THE PROGRAM

9. *Economic effects*

Since the basic objective is the prevention of disease caused by or transmitted by food, economic gain is of secondary consideration but inherently associated with freedom from debilitating illness. There can be no effective measure of numbers of cases of illness prevented, but estimates of current foodborne illness give a basis for judgment of the current problem.

Conservative estimates indicate that more than 1 million persons are made acutely ill each year by some type of foodborne health hazard. The average illness may result in a loss of 2 to 4 days of productive effort. The total cost, therefore, of 1 million cases of foodborne disease each year at a conservative personal income of \$20 a day is in excess of \$60 million in lost productive time.

While death is infrequently caused directly by foodborne disease, such disease does produce an extreme burden on infants and children suffering from other illness and is too often the "final straw" which terminates a young life. While this loss to society is rarely measured in terms of loss to the national economy, such economic loss is a reality.

It is impossible to estimate with any accuracy, the number of persons who would be made ill or the number who would die if we did not have governmental food protection systems. While the present level of such illness is unnecessarily high, there could well be a tenfold or even hundredfold increase if present services did not exist.

Medical care costs have produced hardships on individuals which are at least equivalent to the cost of productive time lost.

A distinctly different but important aspect of the economics of the PHS food protection system is the resultant saving to the food industries. By providing nationwide guidance in public health food protection standards, a basis has been established for uniformity of food equipment and acceptance of high-quality food products, particularly milk, in intrastate and interstate commerce. For example, there are in the United States, many hundreds of local milk ordinances. Each prescribes certain criteria regarding the sanitation of equipment in milk processing plants. Without the leadership of the Public Health Service in making recommendations in the form of a model milk ordinance, these local ordinances would have unlimited variables of requirements for milk processing equipment, causing excessive expense to manufacturers, processors, and ultimately the consumer of milk products.

10. *Economic classification of program expenditures.* (See table above showing total program of the Division.)