

2 COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

mittee invited statements by private economists and statisticians on measures to strengthen our statistical tools. The Government agencies, in turn, were invited to comment on these views.

The current hearings are designed to carry forward this work and to carry out a directive contained in the Joint Economic Committee's Economic Report of 1967—

* * * to look into the possibilities of a truly integrated system providing genuinely comparable statistics consistent with and meshed into an overall system of economic statistics including the Federal, State, and local governments.

The hearings will focus on the problems and possibilities of our statistical system. It is hoped that the proceedings will furnish information and perspective on the following questions:

(1) To what extent is there coordination and integration of statistical series so that it is possible to relate various series bearing on current problems?

(2) Is the present system efficient in the sense of making full use of available information, and known technology, and of minimizing duplication?

(3) What are the present measures for coordinating statistical series within the Federal Government and between Federal and State and local Governments and between users and compliers of data?

(4) Would a National Statistical Center significantly improve the quality of statistical services rendered to users both within and outside of the Government?

(5) What are the implications of a possible statistical center for the problem of disclosure and of safeguarding the rights of individuals to personal privacy?

The subcommittee will seek to determine the extent to which the demand for economic data is being met and is being met efficiently and to examine alternatives in order to arrive at recommendations for the future improvement of our statistical system.

At this point in the record we will include the press release announcing the hearings and the schedule of same.

MAY 12, 1967.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

SENATOR TALMADGE ANNOUNCES HEARINGS ON GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

Senator Herman E. Talmadge (D., Ga.), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics of the Joint Economic Committee, today announced that his subcommittee will hold four days of hearings—May 17 and 18 and June 7 and 8—on the coordination and integration of government statistical programs.

In announcing plans for the hearings, Senator Talmadge said that the hearings can be highly productive through contributing to the adequacy and the efficiency of our government statistical system.

"The demand for government statistics on the part of public and private decision makers is expanding rapidly. We need more, better and more timely data. 'Fine tuning' of monetary and fiscal policies, the efficient operation of our many human resource programs, and State and local data for business planning needs present formidable information and analytical problems. These problems require for their solution relevant statistical series that can be both related and utilized rapidly.

"On the side of the supply of economic statistics, there have been technological advances of revolutionary proportion. These advances include the application of computer technology and the electronic transmission and storage of data. Although scarce, there is also a pool of highly skilled technicians.

"The subcommittee will seek to determine the extent to which the demand for economic data is being met efficiently and to examine alternatives in order to