

Chairman TALMADGE. Senator Miller?

Senator MILLER. I take it from the conversation that while this would be a National Data Center, that it would be for the primary use of the executive branch of Government, is that right?

Mr. DUNN. No; I would not think it would be fair to presume it would be limited to Federal agency service any more than the Federal statistical system is currently limited to Federal agency service. This is one of the largest and dominant parts of the user community, but many of these files—particularly those that were established on the basis of legislative authority to provide a general public service function like the census—provide statistical outputs for everyone. As a matter of fact, their principle source of general output is the publication of monographs which are circulated throughout public repositories of all kinds.

Senator MILLER. Do we wish this primarily for the assistance in decisionmaking by the lawmakers or primarily for decisionmaking on the part of the administrators, or primarily for decisionmaking on the part of the private sector.

Mr. DUNN. I think all three. I think you are going to have representatives of the Federal Statistics Users' Conference in a day or two and they will testify as to the value of the Federal statistics programs and what they have meant over the years to private decisionmaking. There are certain kinds of information that private decisionmakers would have had absolutely no means of accessing were it not for certain standard Federal statistical programs.

I would also like to emphasize that I think the Nation has a very great stake in improvements in the availability of information of this sort, because of the contribution it can make over the years for the success of social science research. I think many of our most serious public problems these days are getting to a realm of policy having to do with health, education, poverty, and so forth, where the domain of the problem is not very well known and many of the aspects of the problem are not very well understood. We need to research these things. A lot of this is going to have to be undertaken by the social science research community.

Senator MILLER. I am sure they use some of these facilities at the Library of Congress now, do they not?

Mr. DUNN. Yes; they do.

Senator MILLER. Would there be any objection to having this Center under the cognizance of the Library of Congress?

Mr. DUNN. This is one of the organizational options which has some possibilities.

Senator MILLER. Following Congressman Bolling's question, if the Bureau of the Budget would not appear to be the most suitable agency for this, what about the Council of Economic Advisers?

Mr. DUNN. Here again, if you added this function to the Council of Economic Advisers you would completely transform the character of the function. They are quite different functions. The Council is a very, very small organization made up of professional people who spend all of their time providing advice to the President on current problems. They make extensive use of information and certainly their efficiency would be substantially improved if they had more effective access to data and had more flexibility in arranging and combining data. But this kind of statistical servicing has been in no way any