

For the sake of time, I can only highlight some of the developments that compound the difficulties of developing a fully coordinated system of information.

GROWTH AND COMPLEXITY OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM

The amount of money allocated for Federal statistical programs has tripled, from \$40 million in 1957 to about \$125 million in fiscal 1967. The number of employees engaged in statistical activities has increased from 11,226 in fiscal 1959 to 14,619 in fiscal 1965, or 30 percent. However, these figures do not indicate the growth or wide range of statistical programs now being undertaken by the various agencies. But even here, if numbers were available, one would have to take into account the size and scope of individual statistical projects. In this connection, however, the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service points out that in fiscal 1965, there were 1,185 Federal contracts for statistical services costing about \$57 million.¹ The breakdown on these contracts is as follows:

Government: Federal, State, and local.....	426
Private	450
Universities and colleges.....	309

In our own analysis of the budgets for statistical programs for fiscal 1968, contained in special analysis K of the Federal Budget, we were able to identify roughly 56 new or expanded current statistical programs. With regard to one single agency, we note that the Office of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Administration, in its "work plan" for fiscal years 1967-68, is undertaking roughly some 79 research projects in addition to its recurring activities.

The point we are making here is that in terms of numbers, if nothing else, the vast proliferation of research and statistical programs and projects now being undertaken is so overwhelming that we wonder how any agency or organization can keep abreast of these many programs in order to discover probable areas of duplication and to determine where coordination might be required.

We, as an organization, and our individual members, consider ourselves fairly sophisticated and knowledgeable about the sources and availability of Federal statistical data. But, it is not easy to keep fully informed except in specific subject areas of major interest. Think what this task must be for the less sophisticated user or for the occasional or potential user. What is lacking and is sorely needed is a comprehensive and uniform inventory of research and statistical data and an indexing system.

ACCELERATED IMPROVEMENT AND USE OF THE COMPUTER

The use of computers in the Federal Government has grown from two in 1950 to over 2,600 in 1966. The number of agencies with ADP equipment was 45 in fiscal 1966, 39 of which have electronic digital computers and six of which use punched-card equipment only.

We know that steps have been taken to provide a greater measure of central policy direction, coordination, and guidance to the Federal agencies in the development of computer-based systems and the acqui-

¹ 1965 Report of Statistical Activities of the Federal Government: Personnel, Equipment, and Contract Costs.