

sition and use of ADP equipment. However, we are still faced with the problem of adopting measures that will provide consistent and accurate information which can be linked together effectively, that will make certain that our major frameworks and models are reliably constructed to guide the collection and analysis of such data and that will provide for the efficient flow of data to meet regular and special demands.

Because of the increasing number of computers being used by government and users, there is an increasing need for tapes for research needs, particularly in the way of special tabulations. Often, the users special needs require collation with other data and cut across agency lines. This problem will be dealt with later.

NEW USES AND NEEDS FOR STATISTICAL DATA

In the past several years, a great deal of legislation has been passed dealing with problems of manpower, housing, health, education, welfare, and poverty. New and expanded programs in these areas require a great deal of factual information, the latest of which often is available only from the 1960 censuses of which often is available only from the 1960 Censuses of Population and Housing. Certain aspects of a number of these programs have called for many kinds of new information as well as data on a local and regional area basis which has not been available or available only in rudimentary form.

A number of programs have been initiated and proposed by various agencies to fill some of the information gaps and includes collection of data on a small area basis. As we have often pointed out these programs call for a coordinated approach by the agencies involved and failure to do this could result in duplication of effort, waste of scarce resources, and unnecessary increased paperwork burden on respondents. In this connection, we have suggested to the Joint Economic Committee that the Federal Government should make a detailed study of the needs for subnational demographic and economic data and that the study should: (1) emphasize fuller utilization of presently available information without undertaking new programs, and (2) distinguish between those areas where the Federal Government should concentrate its efforts and those areas where other organizations, groups, and levels of government should concentrate their efforts.

There is another problem involved in the collection of new and additional data on a small area basis under the new legislation. This, too, has been pointed out in previous testimony before the Joint Economic Committee. In most cases, neither legislation nor administrative procedures prescribe standards to assure that the information is uniform as among areas. For some kinds of information, the lack of uniform standards may be unimportant in meeting the needs for a specific program. For some kinds of information, as, for example, data pertaining to such matters as population, employment, and income, the national interest in having comparable data, gathered and compiled by standard methods, using common definitions, transcends the immediate needs of any particular program. Such information is so important that steps should be taken to secure data which are comparable from one area to another. Without comparable data there will be no common measure to evaluate the success or failure of specific programs or to decide whether or not the existence, expansion, or curtailment of par-