

ticular programs should be the order of the day. Here again, coordinated effort is vital and we do not know what steps are being taken to accomplish this objective.

NEW DIMENSIONS AND EMPHASIS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INQUIRY

Related to new uses and needs is the extension of statistical inquiry into new areas of economic and social interest because of changes occurring within the economy and increased emphasis of governmental policies in certain economic and social problems. Among the economic changes which have occurred are the shift to services and the decline in agricultural employment and changes in the labor force. With regard to the need for better economic statistics, Congressman Curtis has stated:

Many of today's critical issues in economic policy involve manpower and human resource development, equal employment opportunity, elimination of poverty, regional economic development, and the problem of hard core unemployment.

Illustrative of one of these areas is the informational gaps pointed out in the recently issued annual report on manpower requirements, resources, utilization, and training by the Department of Labor:

"More information on people outside the labor force—covering such questions as how many are neither working nor looking for work, who they are, why they have withdrawn from or failed to enter the work force, and how they and their families live—would help to guide job development and related programs, particularly in the urban slums.

"The current population and labor force surveys fail to reach and count considerable numbers of people. Information on who these people are and how they can be reached is essential to program planning.

"Regular collection of labor force data on a narrower geographic basis would help to pinpoint the problem areas of the Nation. Such data should be compiled by city, county, metropolitan area, and State.

"Information on the scope and impact of rural unemployment and underemployment is practically nonexistent and much needed. * * *

"On-the-job training in industry is the major path to skill development. Yet comprehensive information is lacking on the nature and extent of formal and informal training in industry. A broad survey and assessment of occupational training in this country are greatly needed, with emphasis on industry training activities.

"The decennial census, in an economy as dynamic as that of the United States, does not provide sufficiently up-to-date information on basic demographic, economic, and social changes. A large-scale statistical effort to update the decennial census at mid-decade, together with more frequent sample surveys, would provide a more solid foundation for program planning and action."

Another development illustrating new directions of inquiry was pointed out by Ray Bowman of the Office of Statistical Standards to this subcommittee last year in its study of "Improved Statistics for Economic Growth." He called attention to the "wide-ranging nature of analysis and policy which has increasingly crossed the lines of traditional disciplines."

He said:

Analysis of and policy concern for the performance and prospects of society have gone well beyond strictly economic considerations and multiplied the number of issues faster than our ability adequately to evaluate them. Such areas of inquiry as the changing nature of population expansion; the relation between education and economic growth; the motivations to enter or leave the labor force; the interplay between prices, productivity, and wages; the impact of economic changes on particular groups and communities; the increasing statisti-