

cal study of disease; the research underpinnings for policy in the areas of transportation and urbanization—all of these and many more have both widened and intensified the scope of inquiry.

The complex interplay of such wide-ranging questions involves identification in many dimensions of individuals, groups, firms, administrative units, and communities—and their changes over time. This has greatly multiplied the technical requirements for consistency of data which will permit the appropriate analytical manipulations.

Another significant development has been a tremendous expansion in the collection of social statistics and extension into a greater number of social areas. This has created considerable problems of organization and coordination. This problem was dealt with briefly by Mr. Bowman in his statement to this subcommittee last year. This next section refers to a recent report of a House Committee on Government Operations in regard to social research. I don't want to quote it, but the essence of it is that the questions of value of a certain amount of social research indicated there is need for greater coordination in this area.

In this connection, I would like to call attention to a recently issued four-volume staff study prepared for the Research and Technical Programs Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations.² The release accompanying the issuance of this study made several statements that we believe are significant and have a bearing on the problem now under review. The following quotes are extracted from that release:

Many Federal agencies and university social scientists have been more interested in the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake than in the use of research to evaluate or to improve programs directed to the Nation's major social problems. This divorce of much social science from the study of issues actually confronting the society reflects both an academic preference and a failure of Federal agencies to understand how social research can help them . . .

Although social research constitutes a modest proportion of the Federal Government's annual \$17 billion expenditures for research and development, there has been a five-fold increase in Federal funds for social research from some \$73 million in 1960 to over \$380 million in 1967. Yet, there is no systematic review of, or even information on, the content and quality of Federally-financed social research; the extent to which it is made available and used by Federal agencies, the local governments, and other groups; and its effectiveness in helping the Nation to improve education, combat crime and delinquency, reduce poverty, and cope with other major social problems . . .

Federally-financed social research is too often trivial or irrelevant; usable, but not used; valuable, but buried in scholarly journals or government filing cabinets.

There is an excessive emphasis on undirected, small-scale research proposed by individual investigators, and not enough on large-scale, coordinated programs directed at specific objectives. This criticism was often made of research in education, social welfare, and the social aspects of medicine and health . . .

The current fashion of quantitative analysis and indiscriminate accumulation of large bodies of facts, made possible by the computer, often leads away from, rather than toward, greater social understanding. Yet the Federal Government encourages the first and permits the second in the name of "science". . .

The above needs no elaboration and certainly highlights another problem area where coordinated effort is necessary. We recognize that not all social research is statistical in nature, but certainly a great deal of it is and many studies which are primarily analytical in purpose must utilize statistical data whether from primary or secondary sources.

² The Use of Social Research in Federal Domestic Programs, a Staff Study for the Research and Technical Programs Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, April 1967.