

Representative BOLLING. Thank you. Now, with regard to your recommendation (b), for a national statistical index and library. Where and under whose jurisdiction?

Mr. STEPHAN. I am perhaps a skeptic about the possibility of finding the best place to put any activity, because I strongly believe what may be a good place with one type of people performing the activity may be a bad place for a different type of people.

I think there are many good places to put such an index and library. One of them that would be suitable would be in the Office of the Statistical Standards which already has connections and communications with the statistical agencies of the Government. I would be very happy to see this in the Library of Congress, which I think also has many of the facilities and the traditions that would make it operate effectively.

I would like to see the possibility explored of having it developed so that there would be in all major cities an office to which users could go and get information. I am cognizant of the fact that some of the statistical agencies now do perform this function through offices in various major metropolitan areas.

So my answer can only be I would have great confidence in the good sense of the Congress to find one of the very good places to put it and wouldn't worry too much about the question of where would be the best place.

Representative BOLLING. You would be satisfied with the good sense of Congress but you would not argue that one was the best.

Mr. STEPHAN. I could conceive of the possibility that what is a good place now turns out in 10 or 15 years to be an inappropriate place and that changes in location may be made from time to time.

Representative BOLLING. I would like to be as confident as you seem to be that Congress would pick a good place. What about the other two? I would like some indication as to location.

Mr. STEPHAN. The other two recommendations are purposely stated in a somewhat vague form because I could see them as consisting of a sort of federation type of arrangement, rather than a type of formal organization. If we could get the statistical agencies to come together as they do to some extent in the Office of Statistical Standards and they did under the old Central Statistical Board, to work out agreements and to staff it for a time as an ad hoc group to carry out a function, I think that is most likely to meet the needs of the particular problem at the particular time.

Representative BOLLING. I am glad to see that you seem to be a little bit the same way as I am. A sort of anti-institutionalist.

Mr. STEPHAN. I am happy to find somebody who thinks the same way.

Representative BOLLING. Thank you very much.

Chairman TALMADGE. Getting back to Mr. Aiken, do you feel that there is much duplication in the information requested from the public?

Mr. AIKEN. Well, we have been giving some thought to this in this special committee which we have and we have not tried to identify areas of duplication. But it certainly is something we are going to give consideration to.

In this connection, at our recent meeting, this was the subject of considerable discussion. Our committee recognizes that, while duplication does exist to some extent, it is sometimes unavoidable and that