

Means on medical resources available to meet the needs of public assistance recipients. These were contained in "Social Security Amendments of 1960." House Report No. 1799, 86th Congress, 1961. It is my understanding that the Social Security Administration has just completed an updating of the part relating to health care through private charity. Furthermore, the whole problem of hospital finances is now under study by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in connection with the administration of the Medicare program.

Representative CURTIS. Right now Ways and Means is going over this whole field again, particularly with Medicare coming in. We are getting into some of the cost accounting problems with the hospitals. It is quite apparent that statistics have never really been kept, and are not available on the capital investment, let us say, in hospitals. A great deal of the capital investment came from charitable donations and was never put on a cost accounting basis.

Now, where we are seeking to set the fees that hospitals can charge, questions come up concerning the depreciation of capital assets and replacement and possible growth, and so on. There is a real question of whether community chest agencies or, in specific cases, the hospitals themselves, ever had the data.

But I will move on. I know this is taking you far afield but I am concerned with this problem.

We could not even get from HEW the figures on what local governments spent in the field of health. The HEW figures told what State governments spent. For Texas and Missouri, because most of these expenditures occur at the county and municipal levels, there were no statistics. And, of course, the statistics of other States were limited largely to what the State governments spent as opposed to or in relation to what the local government might spend.

Well, I just wanted to open the record on those points and I would appreciate any comments that you could give us.

Now, there is a specific matter you have mentioned in your prepared statement. You point out that Congress has been given responsibility for developing wealth statistics. As you know, this subcommittee held hearings on the wealth of the Nation. "Measuring the Nation's Material Wealth," a report of the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics of the Joint Economic Committee, was issued September 10, 1965. The House Committee on Government Operations has for a number of years published data on Federal real and personal property inventory reports, civilian and military, of the U. S. Government, covering its properties located in the United States, territories, and overseas. The latest I have was as of June 30, 1966. The question, though, is: How far have you or the Department of Commerce gone in developing wealth statistics, and will the inventory be well underway, say, by 1970?

Mr. BOWMAN. I think I would have to answer the question by saying our effort is directed to a program of data collection—where we do not now have data near the end of the decade. That was the way the program was laid out. At the present time the only active program we have is in estimates of wealth in the business sector which are mentioned in my report for the record and which have recently been published in the Survey of Current Business.

Now, it is our expectation to use all the kinds of information which you have just described with regard to Federal wealth.

Representative CURTIS. Yes.