

It should be noted, however, that the major Federal statistical agencies all publish catalogs, price lists, and other types of guides to their statistical publications. Generally, these are arranged according to subject, and alphabetical indexes are provided where needed. Agency catalogs and other guides to statistical publications are listed in, and complemented by, the bibliography of "Principal Statistical Publications of Federal Agencies" published by the Bureau of the Budget in its booklet, *Statistical Services of the United States Government*. An up-to-date revision of this bibliography is now in preparation and will be available shortly.

Q. 3. "When changes in definition are being considered, is there a formal hearing of the affected parties?"

A. 3. Changes in statistical definitions are made only after a considerable amount of consultation with both the producers and users of the particular statistics under review. This consultation is a lengthy process. It may be relatively informal or it may be rather formal; in either case it is extensive. However, even the most formal elements in the process—meetings of interested parties—do not have the character of a "formal hearing," but are rather a mutual exploration of a matter in which all participants have a common interest. Views of the affected parties may change over time as proposals are tested, results evaluated and further proposals made before a final decision is taken.

As an example, the recent changes in the definition of employment and unemployment may be cited. The (President's Committee to Appraise Employment and Unemployment Statistics) known as the Gordon Committee recommended changes in the question-wording on the Current Population Survey to: (1) tighten up on the definition of the unemployed; and (2) add information about persons reporting that they neither worked nor looked for work. These recommendations were based on a widespread consultations with users. The hearings of the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics on Employment and Unemployment of December 18-20, 1961 were also available to it. The Gordon Committee specifically invited comments from academic specialists, business, labor, Federal Reserve Bank economists and others known to have an interest. In addition, all members of the Federal Statistics Users Conference were invited to comment.

Once the Gordon Committee report was received by the President, the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics arranged a hearing at which the recommendations were discussed by Gordon Committee members and heads of affected Government bureaus. I also asked the members of the Policy Committee on the Current Population Survey, an inter-agency committee which I chair, to advise me on a program for implementing the recommendations. As a result of these consultations a small interagency technical group was formed which developed a testing program. The results of the test were sent to the Gordon Committee members for comment, and received general approval. The testing program was described, and early results presented to statisticians at the 1965 meetings of the American Statistical Association. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on the results of these tests and described the proposed revisions to both its business and labor advisory groups.

Following a year of trying out the recommended questions in an "overlap" period, the final decision to incorporate the results in the