

to review under the Federal Reports Act. The aggregate totals about 110 million manhours annually. As of the inventory of repetitive reports for December 1966, about half of the measured reporting burden (manhours) falls on individuals or households; somewhat over a fourth on business; about one sixth on State and local government units (including schools); and the remainder on miscellaneous groups including farmers and non-profit organizations. Equally significant is the distribution by nature of report. About 40 percent comes from application procedures whereby the respondent at his own initiative applies for some benefit or privilege. Another 50 percent of the burden arises from other reports incidental to the administration of government regulatory, benefits, procurement, or other action programs. Only about one tenth is due to what we have called "statistical" reports—those carried on for general informational or research purposes. It should be remembered, however, that data collected for administrative purpose often provide statistical byproducts.

These figures obviously do not provide meaningful information on the equity of the incidence of reporting burden on particular persons, companies, or other respondents. This is partly because so much of the burden is associated with voluntary application procedures, but more basically because the burdens associated with the several thousand repetitive or one-time reports are not in general cumulative on particular respondents. Particular reports tend to affect very specific populations which may or may not overlap—veterans applying for insurance coverage; tourists returning from Mexico; households drawn for a sample for a population and employment survey; companies with overseas investments; companies producing organic chemicals; etc. Useful conclusions as to the impact of Federal reporting on typical citizens, on business organizations of various attributes, and on other important respondent groups will depend on further analysis of our data which we plan to pursue.

"III. The storage and retrieval of data.

Q. 1. "Are there standards set down by the Office of Statistical Standards to insure that the micro data in various agencies are stored in machine readable form and can be utilized by researchers inside and outside of government, with due consideration for disclosure problems?"

A. 1. The Office of Statistical Standards has not formulated and promulgated specific standards governing the storage for research purposes of micro data. OSS does, however, participate actively in promoting such effort. In May of 1959 it published in *Statistical Reporter* general guidelines prepared by its American Statistical Association Advisory Committee on Statistical Policy after consultation with Federal statistical agencies. I append these guidelines. (Annex I)

Currently, an increasing volume of the major sources of information are being recorded in computer language for storage and use. In significant instances, tapes of micro data have been developed and made available for Government and private research, *under arrangements which prevent disclosure or identification of individual respondents.*

Key examples of tapes or micro data now available to researchers include: