

of Labor Statistics and the State labor departments cooperating in collecting employment and payroll statistics. When the social security program came into operation, particularly employment security, so had widespread unemployment insurance coverage of employers, so that program was brought into the partnership by providing the benchmarks, the basic counts of employees which we could use to adjust the current monthly reports of employment and payrolls. At the present time we have the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Employment Security, the State employment security agencies and some half dozen State departments of labor that cooperate in Federal, State, and local statistics.

My impression is that in a number of other programs there has not been such a successful operation of Federal, State, and local statistics. I think this example might be more widely applied in other programs.

The third group is the private agencies—foundations, universities, business firms—who cooperate from time to time under contract or by grants in research and statistics. There are both advantages and disadvantages to the use of private agencies, as I have mentioned in my paper. I want to make two points in that connection. I firmly believe that the continuing statistical series should be produced by a Government agency. I do not see, for instance, how the Consumer Price Index could be produced by a private agency and have the standing which it does. Therefore, I want to urge that adequate funds be provided for Government agencies to produce the continuing statistics. My second point would be that there needs to be careful selection of projects, the special projects or special surveys, which should be done by the Government agencies themselves and which by private contracts.

In conclusion on this whole subject of coordination I want to say that I think we do have the necessary machinery. I think the Office of Statistics Standards in the Bureau of the Budget should be strengthened by support and resources to enable them to do the job that they are responsible for doing.

With respect to a National Data Center I understand that this is not a proposal for a single central statistical agency. The Committee on Government Statistics over 30 years ago recommended against that and I think their recommendation was a sound one. However, I do support the National Data Center as an ultimate goal. I want only to present certain cautions and conditions.

No. 1, is the maintenance of confidentiality. The Bureau of Labor Statistics through the years has operated on a strictly voluntary basis of cooperation from employers and respondents of all kinds. I cannot, in the course of my two decades or so as head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, recall more than three or four or five studies that failed for lack of adequate voluntary cooperation. This voluntary cooperation is dependent upon confidentiality, so my first caution is to make sure that any National Data Center has adequate protection for the confidentiality of the individual records of persons as well as of business firms.

The second point I would like to make is that in the operation of any center of this kind the supplying agency—that is, the statistical agency supplying the information—will need the funds and staff to provide adequate answers to the questions that arise. We had an experience of this sort in the Bureau of Labor Statistics in connection with our family expenditure surveys in 1960-61 when we collected the