

mation system, including quarterly estimates on budgetary receipts and expenditures and the presentation of the budget each year in the context of a long-run set of budgetary projections.

We also believe that a statistical series should be developed which measures wealth in the economy. This was recommended last year by the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics as a supplement to the gross national product series. Gross national product measures economic activity. This may or may not increase wealth. Certainly no one would say that the increase in gross national product that occurs during a war represents an increase in wealth or gives an accurate picture of true and meaningful economic growth.

A statistical series on wealth also would help us to evaluate federal spending programs by distinguishing between those which contribute to our human and material wealth and those which merely stir up economic activity.

One step towards the goal of improved federal expenditure policy would be the development of a capital budget for the Federal Government in order to separate out and identify wealth-creating expenditures which merit public support.

The second reason why we need an improved system of economic intelligence relates to the requirement for statistical information written into important legislation over the past several years. This includes such programs as the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962, the Economic Opportunity Act, the Appalachian Redevelopment Act, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As the Federal Statistical Users Conference has repeatedly pointed out, the requirements for information embodied in this legislation poses both opportunities and problems.

Much of the legislation requires the development of data on a wide variety of subjects, including population, employment by industry, per capita income, and income-consumption patterns in urban areas. If the data are collected effectively, we may develop an improved body of basic information relating to small geographic areas. At the same time, there is the danger of duplication of effort, waste of scarce resources, and an oppressive growth in the paperwork burden on respondents.

The requirements for the collection of more local, regional, and state statistics clearly calls for a coordinated approach by the agencies involved.

It is especially important that the data be developed in such a way that one area may be compared to another. Without comparable data, there will be no common measure to evaluate the success or failure of specific programs or to determine whether particular programs should be expanded or curtailed.

Another important area for a coordinated approach to statistics gathering is in the manpower training and retraining field. Training carried out under the Manpower Development and Training Act, the Economic Opportunity Act, in the military services and in the vocational education and apprenticeship programs has mushroomed in recent years. Yet we will lack an adequate tool for anticipating future needs for trained workers of different kinds in different areas of the country.

There is also a desperate need for more information on the training carried on by private employers. I was pleased to see that this has now been recognized by the Department of Labor. In the 1968 budget, \$500,000 has been requested for surveys and research to be used as a basis for developing a sound policy for assessing the role which the Federal Government should play in training and retraining manpower. An important part of this study will be the gathering of information on the amount and kind of vocational training now provided by private employers.

The greatest gap in our manpower policy is a statistical series on job vacancies. Job vacancy statistics have been endorsed by the Joint Economic Committee, the National Industrial Conference Board, Dr. Walter Heller, Dr. Arthur Burns, and many other experts. The feasibility of collecting such statistics has been demonstrated by pilot studies conducted by both the National Industrial Conference Board and by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Yet the Labor Department now appears to be stalled in its efforts to make further progress.

There are numerous important objectives which vacancy data would serve. Perhaps the most important is as a guide to public and private training and retraining programs. The key requirement of the Manpower Training and Development Act is that training be for a job vacancy that actually exists. Until we develop a series on the number, type, and location of job vacancies, we are really in the dark when it comes to developing sound training programs.