

fit estimation or the empirical measurement of the concepts which we already have?

Mr. LEVINE. The next crucial move has to be data systems. I mention in my remarks some obstacles to this in terms of decentralization. Nonetheless, I think we have work to do and we are working on designing methods of getting data in. I think we ought to use more sampling, perhaps, rather than trying to get uniform data which ends up in warehouses when we get it at all, rather than try to get universal data. I think the design of data systems which will provide the necessary data in sufficient quantity, sufficient range, is basic to everything else in the human resources programs.

Chairman PROXMIRE. What plans does your agency have for improving the reliability of benefits in human resources?

Mr. LEVINE. Well, again, this goes to the data. We are going into sampling. We are going into some evaluation of programs on a sample basis because the operating systems are not providing data that will enable us to do this kind of analysis. One immediate effort is to go out for a contract that will compare five manpower training programs. This is not just our Department, this is the Department of Labor and ourselves in cooperation. We compare the MDTA training program, Job Corps, the Neighborhood Youth Corps, the new JOBS, J-O-B-S, the National Alliance of Businessmen program, and the new careers program on a basis which will get followup data and current experience data on the participants in these programs, compare their characteristics, and then their subsequent experience, to make estimates of future earnings and therefore to do comparative benefit-cost analyses on these crucial training programs.

That is our most immediate program, and I think most exciting, that we have along these lines.

I mentioned our efforts to harden soft data in the community action area. We are engaged now in a full-scale fieldwork which will provide data for analysis of the Headstart program, the full year and the summer Headstart programs, both as to their immediate effectiveness with children and to their effectiveness going into the first years of the child's education. These are a few examples of the kinds of plans we have to do this analysis.

In each case we are using sample data. That may be, so far as our kind of program goes, the only way to do it.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I cannot think of anything you could do that would be more important. I really cannot. I think this goes to the very heart of it. We know we are going to have limited funds for these things. We have been through this. A lot of people feel we are going to fall into a great windfall of Federal money that will be available when the Vietnam war is over. Unfortunately, this is just not true. The competent people in the Defense Department—Secretary Nitze told us in the Appropriations Committee that he would estimate that we would be fortunate if the Defense budget is kept at a \$75 billion level. It is now \$82 billion, so \$7 billion is not much of a saving.

We know the enormous cost of housing which is going to burgeon. We know in so many other areas where the demands for Federal funds are going to increase at a very, very rapid rate. We also know how the