

since they do not appear to have a specific and immediate impact on particular individuals or groups."

In this connection, we think particular attention should be given to the budget, programs and value of the work of the Office of Business Economics. This agency that prepares the national income estimates, the balance-of-payments accounts and other vital economic statistics, has operated on a budget ranging from \$2 million in 1963 to an estimated \$2.9 million in 1968. Four modest improvement programs proposed for 1968, totaling \$372,000, were denied by the Congress. The four programs denied called for: (1) beginning the preparation of real GNP by industry on a quarterly basis, (2) strengthening the analysis of determinants of business investment, (3) personal income by States on a quarterly basis, and (4) initiating work on estimates of the total tangible capital stock of the United States. These certainly are priority items for improving the national income and business financial accounts.

The Joint Economic Committee has made some invaluable contributions leading to improvements in the Federal Statistical System. In its 1967 Economic Report, it directed the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics "to look into the possibilities of a truly integrated system providing genuinely comparable statistics consistent with and meshed into an overall system of economic statistics, including the Federal, State, and local governments." The Report of the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics on the Coordination and Integration of Government Statistical Programs stated "Investigations by this subcommittee and by others have indicated that further significant improvements in our statistical services depends upon a higher degree of integration and coordination of our statistical programs. Indeed, *there are strong indications that this is the aspect of the statistical system where progress is needed most.*" (Emphasis supplied.)

In view of the above, we strongly urge that this committee, in its report, recommend that additional resources be provided the Office of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget to enable it to be more effective in carrying out its responsibilities for the coordination and improvement of our statistical system. Total budget for that office was \$649,000 in 1967 which was 1.7 times greater than in 1948. On the other hand, total obligations for current statistical programs in 1967 was five times greater than it was in 1948. The OSS budget in 1968 declined to \$632,000 and the 1969 budget request calls for \$693,000. This budget increase does not include the addition of any new employees.

The Office of Statistical Standards also is responsible for minimizing reporting costs to the Government and the public under the Federal Reports Act of 1942. It is averaging about 2,600 actions annually on report forms submitted for approval. Despite its broad and important responsibilities, this office is operating with a staff of 35 persons—23 professional and 12 clerical employees. In 1942 it had 42 employees and in 1959 it had 37 employees. We would certainly question whether the current staffing of the OSS of the Bureau of the Budget is sufficient to enable it to exercise the maximum potential for the Government and the public.