

To the Editor:

The Federal-State regional planning program may be expanded as a result of recent Administration decisions. Legislation now being considered by the Senate Public Works Committee, if passed, would also expand the program to nationwide boundaries and substantially increase authorized funding.

In the period 1965-67, six regional commissions were formed under Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act, and the Appalachian Regional Development Act. These were the Ozarks, Upper Great Lakes, New England, Four Corners, Coastal Plains and Appalachian Commissions. At the close of 1971, twenty states were members of the Title V Commissions and thirteen were members of the Appalachian Commission. North and South Carolina and Georgia belong to both the Coastal Plans and Appalachian Commissions.

In January of this year the President authorized establishment of a five-state Upper Missouri Basin Commission. In February, at the National Governors' Conference, the Vice-President, speaking on behalf of the President, invited Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee to join the present Ozarks Commission. In the same address he invited all Governors whose states are not presently within the Program to consider forming regional commissions, and he encouraged Governors in existing Title V commissions to convert their commissions from a partial to "whole state" basis for more effective planning.

Administrative expenses of the Commissions are joint-funded by State and Federal governments, while program funds both for research, technical assistance, demonstration and capital projects are supplied principally by the Federal Government. Plan preparation within the Title V program takes place at the state and regional level, with participation by state, Federal and commission staffs. Plans address themselves to recommended developmental expenditures by State, Federal and private sources. When a plan has reached draft status acceptable to the Governors and the Commission Federal Cochairman, the Secretary of Commerce subjects it to an extensive written and oral review through the Cabinet-level Federal Advisory Council. Following this review and such changes as the Commission considers appropriate, the Secretary approves the plan and forwards it with the Federal comments to the President for action.

Four regional development plans were prepared as of April 1 (Upper Great Lakes, Coastal Plains, Four Corners and Ozarks). The first three have already been approved by the Secretary of Commerce and forwarded to the President; approval and transmittal of the fourth is imminent.

Political scientists interested in further information of the Federal/State Regional Commission Program should write to the Special Assistant to the Secretary, Regional Economic Coordination, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

To the Editor:

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC), University of Chicago, announces the beginning of a National Data Program for the Social Sciences, funded by the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. According to James A. Davis, NORC Director and principal investigator for the project, the program is being undertaken to enhance the timeliness and availability of data commonly used in social science research.

"... Our purpose is to allow any interested student or professional inexpensive and ready access to relevant, representative, and standardized data on important social science variables less than one year after the data are gathered. A complete set of data over five or ten years would provide a unique body of materials for studying social trends. . . ."

The five-year project will provide freshly collected national sample survey data at the cost of reproduction and shipping. Through a collaborative arrangement with NORC, the data will be distributed by the Roper Public Opinion Research Center at Williams College to members and non-members alike.

Using a standard questionnaire, with certain questions being repeated each year, one national sample survey will be conducted each year over the next five years. Most of the questions will be repetitive of questions asked in surveys conducted during the past three decades by such organizations as Gallup, Roper, and NORC. Thus, even the first project survey will provide some trend information.

About half of the 1972 survey will cover attitudinal areas such as race relations, social control, subjective occupation satisfaction, sex roles, etc. The other half will contain the usual demographic data, — e.g. age, sex, race, education, income, ethnicity, siblings, political party preference, religion, etc.

Interviewing for the 1972 survey will occur late in the winter with the remaining four surveys being spaced about a year apart. The samples will consist of a national cross-section of adults, 18 and over, and will total approximately 1600. A probability sample with quotas will be used (multi-stage probability down to the "segment" level with quotas applied at the final stage).

NORC will clean the data and prepare the codebook (including all relevant sampling information). The Roper Center will process all requests for duplicate data sets at a cost of \$25.00 per deck (including codebook) plus postage. It is likely that there will be three or four decks per survey.

The decks will be compiled so that it will be possible to analyze some of the data (both substantive and demographic) in any one of the decks. Users, therefore, may procure one or all of the data decks. More detailed information on data organization will be available at a later date.

The codebook will include: (1) description of the sample, (2) a rationale for question selection with specific references to sources of similar or identical data in earlier surveys, (3) interviewer specifications, (4) cleaning procedures, and (5) the codes and marginal results for each question. The codebook will detail the entire study and will be sent in its entirety whether a user buys one deck or all.

Use of the data will be completely unrestricted, — i.e. it may be published, used for training, re-duplicated and rediffused, etc. Both NORC and the Roper Center ask, however, that they be cited as the sources of the data and that if possible copies of publications based on the surveys be sent to each.

If you are interested in more detailed information about the study such as the contents of the individual decks, we suggest that you complete the attached form and return it to the Roper Center.

The information supplied is for planning purposes only and is not binding in any way.

Write to Roper Center for information on data availability. The data for the first study, fielded Spring, 1972, will be ready for distribution in early Summer, 1972.

I would be interested in having further information about the National Data Program for The Social Sciences as it becomes available:

Based upon current information, it is likely that I will order the following data from the Roper Center:

All decks (can be as many as four) at \$25.00 each in card form:

..... # of sets:
Just one or two decks at \$25.00 each:

..... # of sets:
If I order data, I would probably order additional copies of the codebook if they cost less than \$3.00 each:

Estimate of how many:

I would rather have the data on magnetic tape at the same cost of \$25.00 per deck:

My tape requirements are: bpi
..... tracks

Name:

Department:

Affiliation:

Address:

.....

..... (Zip Code)

Telephone No.: (AC:.....)

Address all correspondence to:

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THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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For further information concerning the Personnel Service write to:

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