

## MINUTES OF THE 1975 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION

The meeting was opened by Joseph Waksberg, the Chairman, at 5:30 p.m. The agenda included:

1. Announcement of New Officers
2. Report on issues raised at the interim meeting
3. Discussion of Recent attacks on Social Science Research.

### 1. NEW OFFICERS

As a result of the recent election the list of officers for 1976 are as follows:

Chairman elect - Paul C. Glick  
Vice Chairman (1976-77)- Monroe Lerner  
Section Representative  
to Board of Directors - Eli S. Marks  
Section Representative  
to the Council - Monroe Sirken

A question was raised concerning appointment of the editor for the Proceedings. Subsequently, Edwin D. Goldfield agreed to accept re-appointment as editor for another year.

### 2. ISSUES RAISED AT THE INTERIM MEETING

These included:

1. Whether any action should be taken by the Section with respect to issues of privacy and confidentiality raised in connection with statistical data collection activities.

2. a) How to increase Section membership and activity, and

b) What might be done to increase the number of social statistical papers appearing in JASA.

With respect to the "privacy and confidentiality" question, it was decided that more information was needed by the membership. Therefore, a section focusing on the topic was added to the 1975 meetings and it was made the topic of the Social Statistics Section Luncheon. No specific action by the Committee seemed necessary because the ASA now has a committee concerned with the subject, chaired by Joseph Gatsworth. Joe Gatsworth reported on his committee's activities to date.

With respect to the lack of substantive applications articles appearing in JASA, Harry Rosenberg reported on the work of his committee which reviewed papers presented at the 1974 meetings with a view toward recommending submission to JASA. Bob Ferber, editor of JASA, reported on the number of articles received, reviewed and accepted. He noted that, overall, there was an 80-85% rejection

rate, but one out of every three social statistics papers submitted had been accepted. There was general agreement that too few articles were submitted. A lively discussion from the floor suggested numerous reasons why papers were not submitted. A recurring theme suggested that members perceived the review procedures as appropriate for papers dealing with statistical methodology rather than substantive applications. A motion was made and approved that the review procedure initiated in 1974 be repeated, and some follow-up of the 15 papers recommended for submission to JASA be made. It was also agreed that a comparison of the reviews of the Rosenberg committee and the JASA reviewers be made. A second motion to poll the members concerning their views of JASA and the Proceedings was rejected.

### 3. SECTION RESPONSE TO ATTACKS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The basic question was "Should there be a response by the section to attacks such as that of Senator Proxmire on titles of research sponsored by N.S.F.?" Discussion from the floor generally agreed with the recommendation of the interim meeting that the issue concerned the entire ASA and not only the Social Statistics Section. Mr. Waksberg offered to bring the subject up at the next meeting of the ASA Council. (The Council subsequently passed a resolution instructing its representative to COPSS to propose joint COPSS action.)

### 4. REPORT ON THE 1975 MEETINGS

Mollie Orshansky reported on the development of the 1975 program. There were eleven sessions for invited papers, which included 44 papers, and eleven sessions for contributed papers, which included 78 papers. Over 100 contributed papers were submitted and the poster sessions brought the total number of papers presented at the meetings to 137. She raised several procedural questions on the "open" submission of contributed papers and suggested that more formal procedures might be useful.

There was some discussion from the floor concerning improvement of the sessions generally.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.











