

JHW

RBF

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Here is another memorandum from Simon Kuznets with regard to work in the field of national income. This is a document setting out scientific problems in a basic sector of American economics written by the man who is way out in front in that field and indeed has contributed more in economic research in the last ten years than any other economist.

I don't urge that you read this because it does focus pretty much on a problem that is of a highly statistical character, - basically a problem of measurement. It is so important that I think we ought to go ahead and make this basic measurement the perfect tool that it can be for policy makers, for scholars, and others. But such a subject does not make interesting reading. Since I have bombarded you with three other documents I want you merely to have the chance to glance at this if you desire to do so. Don't misunderstand me, I think it is well worth reading.

It is interesting to note in this report one point that you stressed in an earlier memorandum to me, - namely, Dr. Rose's point that very often the ablest men are already at work and need nothing further. This document does not at present propose large expenditures. In fact, the only two that immediately appear (there may be others) are the carrying through of the two grants already envisaged to the University of Delaware and the University of Minnesota. We made one last year to Wisconsin. If we make small grants to the other two, we will have made grants to the three states that have the finest body of data on the subject in the United States and will serve as models for other states which will inevitably come in time to the same work.

JHW:LMG