December 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR:  BLS QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN ADVISORY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

FROM : CATHRYN S. DIPPO  
Senior Mathematical Statistician  
Office of Research and Evaluation

SUBJECT : Conference Preparation

The attached materials for the BLS Questionnaire Design Advisory Conference are as follows:

Agenda  
List of Materials Sent to Advisors  
List of Advisors and Participants

Please review the list of materials sent to the advisors. If you would like a copy of any items, please contact Eva Jacobs (272-5156) for items related to CE and Jack Bregger (523-1944) for those related to CPS.

Although meeting participation is separate for the two days, everyone is invited to the reception Thursday evening.

Attachments
QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN ADVISORY CONFERENCE

AGENDA

JANUARY 15-16, 1987

Hyatt Regency Washington (on Capitol Hill)
400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-737-1234

Thursday, January 15

8:30 a.m.  Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m.  Introductory remarks  J. Norwood

9:15 a.m.  Consumer Expenditure Survey  K. Dalton
                      Moderator

                      Introduction
                      (description, users, materials)  E. Jacobs

                      Diary attitude questionnaire and
                      alternative diary design test  C. Tucker

                      Internal evidence of reporting weakness  A. Silberstein

                      Concerns about particular kinds of questions
                      (Interview survey)  S. Groves

                      Questions

                      (Break around 10:30 a.m.)

12:30 p.m.  Lunch

1:45 p.m.  Potential research topics  C. Jacobs

                      Discussion

                      (Break around 3:00 p.m.)

4:15 p.m.  Discussion of research plans and concerns  K. Dalton
                      for other surveys

4:45 p.m.  Closing remarks

5:00 p.m.  Reception
Friday, January 16

8:30 a.m.  Continental breakfast

9:00 a.m.  Current Population Survey                        J. Bregger
           Introduction                                           Moderator
           (description, history of questionnaire)               H. Hamel
           Potential research topics                              C. Dippo
           Discussion                                              
           (Break around 10:30 a.m.)                             

12:30 p.m.  Lunch

1:45 p.m.  Discussion of research plans and concerns        G. Werking
           for other surveys                                      

2:30 p.m.  Closing remarks
List of Materials Sent to Advisors

Consumer Expenditure Survey

1. Chapter 6 of BLS Handbook of Methods
2. Diary and interview questionnaires
3. 1982-83 Interview and Diary Bulletins (contains discussion of PCE comparisons—external evidence of possible reporting error)
4. Gieseman, Raymond W. "The Consumer Expenditure Survey: Results Compared With Data From Other Sources."
5. Brief description of "Methodological Research and the Consumer Expenditure Diary Survey"
6. Brief description of "Reporting Quality in the Diary Survey"
7. Brief description of "Conditioning and Recall Effects in the Interview Survey"
8. Diary attitude questionnaire
9. Set of suggested questions to be addressed

Current Population Survey

2. Report of the BLS-Census CPS Questionnaire Design Research Planning Committee (contains the current questionnaire as an appendix)
6. Brief description of plan for laboratory research to improve within household coverage in CPS
ADVISORS

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Research Triangle, North Carolina

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Stony Brook, New York
PARTICIPANTS

Thursday, January 15
Consumer Expenditure Survey

Barbara Bailar (Census)
Tony Burkume
Larry Cahoon (Census)
Mike Carlson
Ken Dalton
Cathy Dippo
Thesia Garner
Sue Groves
Gail Hoff (Census)
Paul Hsen
Eva Jacobs
Marilyn Manser
Charles Mason
Janet Norwood
Wes Schaible
Norbert Schwarz
Stephanie Shipp
Adriana Silberstein
Clyde Tucker

Friday, January 16
Current Population Survey

Barbara Bailar (Census)
Jack Bregger
Dave Christopher (Census)
Ken Copeland
Kathy Creighton (Census)
Cathy Dippo
Paul Flaim
Harvey Hamel
Easley Hoy
Debbie Klein
Marilyn Manser
Betsy Martin (Census)
Janet Norwood
Flora Peitzmeier
Phil Rones
Wes Schaible
Norbert Schwarz
George Stelluto
George Werking
Potential Research Topics for CE

I. Introduction - Our View
   A. Purposes of Survey - CPI Cost Weights and Expenditure/Income
   B. Basic Goal of Research
      1. Address the issue of the differential underreporting of income
      2. Increase levels of Expenditure Reporting in General.

II. Questions Addressed by Research So Far.
   A. Diary Operations Test
      1. Level of Specitivity Interviewers
      2. Diary Specific Interviewers
   B. Interview Data Analysis
      1. Time in Sample Effects
      2. Recall Effects

III. Constraints
   A. Aiming for Redesign in 1996; Need final decision in 1994
   B. Small Number of Variables in any Test
   C. Budget

IV. Current Proposed Plan
   Purpose - Address Issues of future Structural Redesign
   A. Interview Test 1988 - 1992
      1. Purpose
         a) Reduced recall length - one month
         b) Split Questionnaire - Reduce Respondent Burden
      2. Design Description
         a) Control Panel- All sections-quarterly interview
         b) Test Panel I- One half of Sections -quarterly
         c) Test Panel II- One half of Sections- monthly
         d) Test Panel III- Second half of Sections- quarterly
         e) Test Panel IV- Second half of Sections- Monthly

1. Purpose
   a) One Month Length
   b) Coverage would be Non-Food and Items not on Quarterly
   c) Items where shorter recall period is beneficial

2. Design
   To be determined.