THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COUNCIL

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

APPENDIX TO 1971 REPORT

As a major part of the next academic year has passed since the Report for 1971 was prepared, it may be appropriate to add a short appendix relating to major developments flowing from items recorded in the 1971 Report.

I am pleased to report that recruitment plans laid in 1971 are showing results. Three new Chairs have been filled: Economics and History (second Chairs) and the Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology. Recently appointments have been recommended for all vacancies in the Department of Economics. A new Archivist has been appointed.

The installation of the new computer has overcome the major delays and other problems that had severely restricted research progress in 1971. The Joint Schools Programming Unit has also been running computer courses for social scientists which have increased user efficiency. Survey work continued to play an important role in the School's research. Further results flowed from the Political Science Survey dealing with political behaviour. The demographers completed a major and complex survey of Melbourne dealing with demographic and sociological aspects of family formation. The sociologists are planning a major survey in 1973 to study social mobility and social stratification in Australia.

New academic staff, a steady inflow of visitors, increasing space required for support staff for surveys and other quantitative studies, and additional staff supported from outside funds, have raised room occupancy, and additional study rooms will be required by 1973. With the collaboration of Property and Plans, plans have been completed and accepted for converting the unfinished area of the RSSSS Hexagon of the Coombs building into 17 study rooms and a seminar room. Work is expected to begin in November and to be completed by March 1973. There is likely to be severe pressure on rooms again by 1976 and appropriate recommendations will be made for the 1976/78 triennium.
The Australian Dictionary of Biography met its 1972 target with the production of Volume 4, 1851-1890, D-J, in August. Consideration is now being given to the arrangements that might be appropriate to permit this project to continue after 1973, following the retirement of the present Head.

Outside funds continued to supply important supplements for a number of projects requiring extensive and costly field work. A number of further special requests to undertake research on matters of national importance have also been received since the 1971 Report was written and at least one major new project will probably be before Council late this year or early in 1973. While each outside request, whether for a major project or for consulting, requires careful consideration, I think it can be said that work undertaken so far has related to topics of national significance and has been to the advantage of the academic research interests of the School. The main areas in which research projects are now proceeding substantially as a result of agreements between the University and outside organisations are demography, urban studies, statistics and education.

A number of administrative and organisational matters initiated in 1971 have now gone forward as firm recommendations. These include new Faculty and Faculty Board Rules (unhappily, not yet implemented); and a proposal under the new degree rules for the degree of M.Phil to supplement the present Ph.D.

W.D. Borrie

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