

Task Force Report: Science and Technology.

A Report to the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice.

INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES.

U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1967. 228 pp., 7 Chapters and 10 Appendices. \$1.25.

This report is one of a series of eleven supporting the main report on "The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society".

The object is to show how science and technology are used and can be further used in the prevention of crime. Its interest to the operational research worker is as an example of the systems approach to a complex problem which is outside the normal industrial or commercial field.

Among the recommendations are suggestions for greater use of statistical aids in sentencing policy; of simulation of court systems; establishment of information systems; use of computers in communications and control systems, as well as some simple practical recommendations like the adoption of a single police telephone number like "999". Not many readers of the *Operational Research Quarterly* will benefit professionally from reading this report but many would be interested to see statistics and models of crime and police activity presented in familiar terms; they show considerable promise for improving the effectiveness of the police and for preventing crime.

JOHN HOBBS

A Manager's Guide to Work Study.

OWEN GILBERT.

John Wiley, London, 1968. 147 pp. 30s.

It is a pleasure to find a book on work study which is written for the reader rather than the subject, and Dr. Gilbert presents a comprehensive outline of the subject in most readable form. In addition to the basic tools of method study and work measurement, useful outlines of job evaluation, ergonomics, network planning and a history of work study are provided.

The weaknesses of work measurement are fairly considered, although when criticizing rating, he does not explore the possibilities of regular checks against "benchmarks", as recommended¹ by the National Board for Prices and Incomes. Methods of work measurement are adequately explained, but the section of activity sampling is not extended to work sampling (by the addition of rating and a production record). An opportunity has also been missed to clarify the relationship between work study and proprietary techniques of measurement and control, e.g. group capacity assessment and variable factor programming.