

Foreword

This volume contains the papers presented at the October 7, 1977 conference on "U. S. Productive Capacity: Estimating the Utilization Gap," held in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference, cosponsored by the Center for the Study of American Business and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, examined the current and projected estimates of U.S. productive capacity and utilization. Appropriate measures of the gap between productive capacity utilized and full productive capacity are important to the development of appropriate economic policy.

The three basic papers were presented by George Perry of the Brookings Institution, Peter Clark of the staff of the Council of Economic Advisers, and by Robert Rasche and Jack Tatom of Michigan State University and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

An economic policy address was given by William Nordhaus, a member of the Council of Economic Advisers. A paper by James Ragan of Kansas State University on projections of capacity utilization is also included in the Supplemental Papers section of this volume. Discussion papers were presented by Pham Chi Thanh of American University, Laurence Meyer of Washington University, and Frank deLeeuw of the Congressional Budget Office.