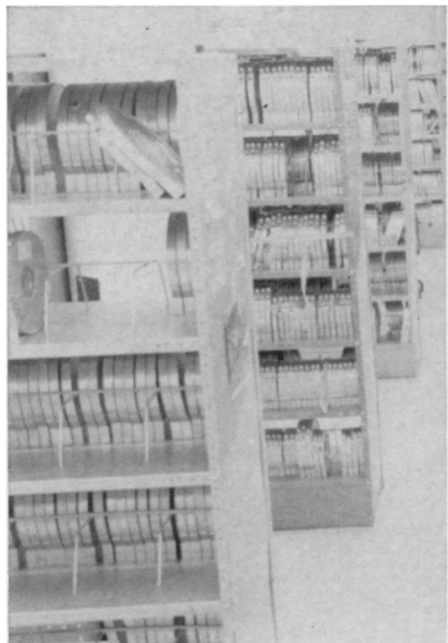


Census challenged

Census uses and fact-gathering methods are under sharp Congressional attack

by Marjory Scarlet



Census Bureau

DISTRICTS	Free white Males of 16 years and upwards, including heads of families.	Free white Males under sixteen years.	Free white Females, including heads of families.	All other free persons.	Slaves.	Total.
Vermont	22435	22328	40505	255	16	85539
N. Hampshire	36086	34857	70160	630	158	141885
Maine	24384	24748	46870	538	NONE	96540
Massachusetts	95453	87289	190582	5463	NONE	378787
Rhode Island	16019	15799	32652	3407	948	68825
Connecticut	60523	54403	117448	2808	2764	237946
New York	83700	78122	152320	4654	21324	340120
New Jersey	45251	41416	83287	2762	11423	184139
Pennsylvania	110788	106948	206363	6537	3737	434373
Delaware	11783	12143	22384	3899	8887	59094
Maryland	55915	51339	101395	8043	103036	319728
Virginia	110936	116135	215046	12866	292627	747610
Kentucky	15154	17057	28922	114	12430	73677
N. Carolina	69988	77506	140710	4975	100572	393751
S. Carolina	35576	37722	66880	1801	107094	249073
Georgia	13103	14044	25739	398	29264	82548
	807094	791850	1541263	59150	694280	3893635
Total number of inhabitants of the United States exclusive of S. Western and N. Territory.	Free white Males of 21 years and upwards.	Free Males under 21 years of age.	Free white Females.	All other persons.	Slaves.	Total
S. W. territory	6271	10277	15365	361	3417	35691
N. Ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—

Census Bureau

U.S. population of almost four million from handwritten results of first census contrast to today's millions of population facts on computer tapes.

One hundred and seventy-nine years ago the first periodic enumeration of the American people began. The census—a decennial population count—was provided for in the Constitution, and consisted originally of six basic questions, providing information the fledgling Government needed for the apportionment of representation in the Congress and for taxation. The cost of the first census was \$44,377.28.

As the population and its needs grew, so did the need for information, and it was natural for Congress to use the already established census machinery to do the job. Today the census is the basis for programs as diverse as plans and improvements in housing, agriculture, manufacturing, manpower development, education, and aid to veterans and metropolitan area planning. And the \$105 million spent on the 1960 census will have to grow almost another \$100 million for the 1970 survey.

The bureau has had a perfect record of confidentiality since its establishment. It may spot check for accuracy of census answers, but under penalty of law, it may never divulge any personal information.

Dr. Ross A. Eckler, director of the Bureau of the Census, in a statement before the House Subcommittee on Census and Statistics, assured the Congressmen that "the refusal of the Census Bureau to give such information to other agencies or to individuals has been tested in the courts and has repeatedly been upheld."

Nevertheless, public disapproval grows with the addition of each new Federal survey or census question, and the regular increase in the number of Government agencies conducting their own surveys is resulting in a parallel increase in opposition.

In this session of Congress alone, more than 50 bills have been proposed to limit the mandatory questions in the

upcoming 1970 census. And, while the House is concentrating on the Census Bureau, a Senate investigation of all Federal surveys, including the census, is taking place.

"Somewhere a balance must be struck between the individual's desire to keep silent and the Government's need for information," declares Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights.

Sen. Ervin's recommendations for reform of the census are similar to those proposed by other challengers. Rep. Jackson E. Betts (R-Ohio), for example, proposes to eliminate the threat of a jail sentence for refusing to answer or falsely answering any census question other than the basic six: name and address, relationship to head of household, sex, date of birth, marital status and visitors in the home at time of census. His bill is the one under consideration in the House.



Nongovernmental users of census statistics have struck out for retention and even possible expansion of the scope of the census. Testifying before the Subcommittee on Economic Statistics of the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress, Harold D. Watts, director of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin said, "the proposed legislation would virtually paralyze the census in performing its Constitutional duties."

Watts, Martin R. Gainsbrugh, senior vice president of the National Industrial Conference Board and John J. Gunther, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, agreed not only that the census should not be curtailed, but that it would be more beneficial if it were conducted more frequently.

Dr. Raymond T. Bowman, assistant director for statistical standards of the Federal Bureau of the Budget, does not feel that it is improper for citizens to answer certain questions once a decade. Mandatory response to all Federal censuses, Dr. Bowman maintains, "is the only way that statistically valid and uniform data can be obtained when they are required for the country as a whole and all its geographic divisions."

The jail penalty, since its inclusion in 1929, has never been enforced. Only two people were ever indicted for failure to comply with the census law, and they were fined.

The critics object to the present census machinery, but have yet to offer another system for data gathering. Sen. Ervin's committee has received hundreds of complaints from private citizens on Federal questionnaires and specific census questions, but major Government agencies that plan for future improvements find the present census system working well, and are fighting for its retention.

"The information gathered by the census," says Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz, "is essential for the effective operation of Government and the rational ordering of domestic priorities. It provides essential information for business and labor organizations. It is basic to the conduct of sophisticated demographic research."

Investigations, which have been going on in one form or another for decades, have had little major impact.

Both in the House and the Senate, subcommittee members feel it is necessary to look further into the statistical needs of Government and the individual's rights to privacy. They will continue to do so with hearings, both in Washington and in the field. But unless the 1970 census is postponed until 1971, major revisions this time around seem no more likely than earlier efforts. ◇

CLASSIFIED

Classified advertisements are accepted for the following classifications: Books, Business Opportunities, Camps, Colleges, Micro Ads, Personals, Positions Wanted, Schools, Services, Travel. All advertisements must be consonant with the character of Science News.

Rates . . . single insertion 30c a word. Minimum charge is \$6.00. For multiple insertions, write for rate card. Classified advertising is payable in advance. Closing date 4 weeks prior to publication (Saturday).

Employment opportunities are accepted at regular display rates, subject to agency commission. Minimum size 1 inch. Minimum charge \$23.80 per inch. Rate cards available upon request.

To speed up insertion, address classified advertising . . . Classified Ads, Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

BOOKS

MUSHROOMS AND FUNGI. Comprehensive lists. LEW's, 2510 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. 94109.

BOOKS on rockets, missiles and space exploration. Free 64-page illustrated catalog. Rocketlab, Dept SN, Box 5636, China Lake, California 93555.

ASSAY MANUAL—Qualitative Chemical Analysis for Gold, Silver, Mercury, Lead, and Platinum in Minerals \$2.00 K/N MINERALS, Box 631, Redlands, California 92373.

PAPERBACK CATALOGUE, 270 pages, 15,000 titles, Subject indexed. \$2.00. Credited toward order. N.Y. Book, 4S West 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AUSTRALIA!!!, AUSTRALIA!!!, AUSTRALIA!!! Jobs Galore! Government assisted Transportation. 1969 Handbook \$1.00. Satisfaction Guaranteed!! Associated, Box 17X96, Lafayette, California.

CAMPS

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE U.S. Youth, 16-20, learn from Ph.D. candidate foreign instructors about their peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East at the SUMMER INSTITUTES OF NATIONS. A series of three week outdoor educational and recreational sessions in the mountains of California and lake country of Indiana. Meaningful and relevant. 8th year, nonprofit, tax exempt. Applications now being received. Nations, Inc., Box 1146, Berkeley, California 94704.

CAMP BIOTA—Six weeks exciting fun and knowledge. Boys 9-14. Natural science for academically talented. Lake, cabins. Survival, creative indigenous crafts, canoeing, fishing, swimming, archery, riflery, riding. Professional staff. A.C.A. Nashville 615-766-2494. Dr. and Mrs. Forrest N. Evans, Joelton, Tennessee 37080.

MICRO ADS

LIVE SEAHORSES, marine specimens, aquarium supplies. Illustrated catalog 15c. Marine Box 248-206 Dania, Florida 33004.

CLASSIFIED

MICRO ADS

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS 80-page electronic-optical catalog showing hundreds of bargains galore. Pennies on the dollar. Meshna, Nahant, Mass. 01908.

MINIATURE ALUMINUM EXTRUSIONS, Cross sectional area as small as .010. Send prints for immediate quote. Mann Made Inc., Box 307, Fate, Texas 75032.

CHEMICALS, Biologicals, Botanicals, \$1.00 Quantities Pricelist \$1.00 Deductible from First Order. Dept. S Spectro, 1354 Ellison, Louisville, Ky. 40204.

STROBES, COLOR ORGANS, THE INCREDIBLE STROBIT. See your music in dazzling color. Factory prices. Save 25-50%. Catalog 25c, refunded first order. Teletronics, Box 1266, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95705.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER . . . A "Things of Science" unit on SOUND for only 75c (plus 25c for postage and handling). "Sound" unit contains a gong, jingle bell, double reed whistle, metal strip, rubber band, siren, double reed disc, plastic sheath, plastic tube and stiff paper . . . But Just What Is Sound? . . . With the materials in this unit, you learn something about the nature of sound and how it is produced, 39 experiments in instruction manual contained in this unit. Regular subscription price \$9.50 for 12 Things of Science (one a month for a year) . . . See if you and your friends will like it . . . try this one on Sound. Simply mail \$1.00 to Sound/Things of Science, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Your complete introductory kit will be mailed you same day your order is received.

PERSONALS

INTRODUCTORY OFFER . . . one Things of Science Unit on Touch, 75c, plus 25c for handling and postage. Send \$1 to Touch/Things of Science, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

WAS NERO A GOOD EMPEROR? Did Vikings settle in North America? Was Stonehenge built by Minoans? Are the legends of Hercules-Medusa-the Phoenix, based on facts? If these questions intrigue you, read (and give) ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER, packed with little-known facts about the Pagan world, new finds and deductions, reports from "digs," travel tips. Now in its 4th year. Subscribers include university and other libraries. Send \$5.00 for 8-issue subscription to OTTO F. REISS, Publisher, 243 East 39th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

SCHOOLS

MCI. ACCREDITED NEACSS. College preparatory and general courses. Boys' grades 9-12 and postgraduate. Coeducational day. Nonsectarian, nonmilitary. Major sports including lacrosse, soccer, riflery, golf, tennis, outing club. Edward R. Stanley, Headmaster, Pittsfield, Maine 04967.

SERVICES

MUSIC COMPOSED to your words by excellent composers on 50-50 ownership basis. Write Sound, Box 833, Miami, Fla. 33135.

Are You Reading Your Own Copy of Science News?

If not . . . you can avail yourself of the special offer to non-subscribers

39 WEEKS for only **\$3.97**

Simply send your name, address and zip plus \$3.97 to Science News

Dept. 39

1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036