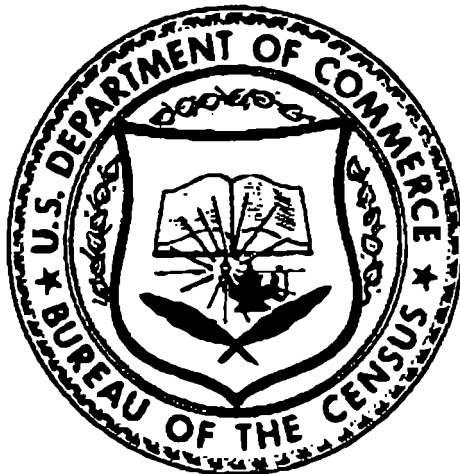




OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Bureau of the Census
U. S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D C 20233

Telecopier Cover Sheet

DATE: June 8, 2000

FROM: **Robin Bachman**

Telecopier
301-457-3679

Telephone
301-457-2123

TO:

202/456-5581

Attn: Irene Bueno

No. of pages attached: 1

FYI



Criminal Division

Office of the Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 31, 2000

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3214

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

This responds to your facsimile letter to the Attorney General dated April 19, 2000, concerning individuals impersonating employees of the U.S. Census Bureau. A copy of your correspondence has been referred to this office for reply.

We note that you have forward a copy of your correspondence to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with a copy of an email from Nicole Bennett in which she describes a midnight telephone call from someone identifying themself as a Census employee and requesting inappropriate information. The FBI will determine whether a federal investigation may be warranted. If appropriate, the FBI may refer the matter to a United States Attorney for a final determination regarding legal action.

In addition, we are forwarding a copy of your correspondence to the Metropolitan Area Fraud Task Force (MAFTF), U.S. Secret Service, Suite 6000, 1100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, that investigates credit card and identify theft crimes. The telephone number for the MAFTF is 202 406-8200.

Thank you for seeking our assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if the Department can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

Alan Gershel
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

cc: Sgt. James Flynn

Two Number Census

- Q. *We understand that the Census Bureau will produce two sets of Census 2000 redistricting data; one set that is the actual number of people counted in each block and another set that has been corrected for undercounts of the population.*

Having two sets of redistricting data is going to cause great confusion for an activity that is already the most controversial process in American politics. Will your Census Bureau tell state legislatures which set is the "official" data they should use for redistricting?

- A. Public Law 94-171 requires the Census Bureau to provide state officials with decennial census population totals for redistricting. The Census Bureau and the Department of Commerce also have a mission to produce the most accurate information we can. Based on over 50 years of research into how to measure and correct for census undercounting, the Bureau plans to use an Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation survey to measure and correct counting errors in Census 2000.

Barring unforeseen operational problems, the Census 2000 P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data we provide to state legislative leaders next year will reflect these corrections. Based on current plans, these P. L. 94-171 Redistricting Data would be denoted as the most accurate numbers the Census Bureau can produce for redistricting purposes.

Under a 1997 law (Public Law 105-119), the Census Bureau also is required to make publically available a second set of data that contains only unadjusted population totals. States, can of course, use whatever data they choose for redistricting.

- Q. *How will the Census 2000 Redistricting Data be transmitted to the States and when will it be made public?*

- A. The data will be shipped by overnight delivery on a flow basis by state to the designated state officials. The following day we will confirm delivery and make these data publicly available on the American Factfinder.

- Q. *I have heard that there will be a third Census 2000 number. Could you shed any light on this issue?*

- A. Perhaps you are referring to the Census Bureau post-censal estimates program. This is a program where the Census Bureau updates the decennial census figures for governments. The post-censal estimates are produced to include births, deaths, and migration that occur between censuses. The estimates are released periodically during the decade, and there

are numerous federal programs that base funding on these estimates (there are numerous other federal programs that base funding on the decennial census).

You may also have heard of a process that the Census Bureau uses to correct these estimates. This is a program that we refer to as Census Question Resolution. After the census 2000 counts are released it is possible that a local government may question their count. In some situations the Census Bureau may correct their records (i.e., to correct a boundary problem). The correction will be carried forward for the post-censal estimates. It will not be included into the actual Census 2000 counts because Census 2000 has been completed. Similar programs were available in previous censuses.

G.O.P. Shifts Census Battle From Washington to States

Al

By STEVEN A. HOLMES

WASHINGTON, June 5 — With Congress and the Clinton administration in a stalemate over whether to rely solely on traditional counting methods in the 2000 Census, Republicans have quietly moved the battle over the head count from Washington to state capitals.

New Jersey has become the latest battleground over the seemingly arcane but politically volatile issue of statistical sampling in the census.

At the prompting of state party leaders, the Republican-controlled New Jersey Assembly approved a bill tonight mandating that the state use only census data derived from mailed-in census forms, door-to-door canvasses or other traditional means when it redraws Congressional and state legislative lines. The measure passed 42 to 34, with Republicans and Democrats voting along party lines.

The Census Bureau and Democrats assert that traditional counting methods should be supplemented with data obtained from a randomly selected national sample of 314,000

households. The information gleaned from these households would be used to adjust population totals and, Census Bureau officials say, make the census more accurate.

The bureau's plans to implement sampling, however, have become the subject of an intense partisan debate. Republicans fear — and Democrats hope — that adjusting the census count by sampling would increase the count of people living in traditionally Democratic areas. As a result, those areas could gain seats in state legislatures at the expense of white suburban areas.

The New Jersey bill, which both Republicans and Democrats also expect to pass in the State Senate, would, if signed by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, make New Jersey the sixth state to ban the use of statistically adjusted census data in the redrawing of Congressional and legislative district lines. The other states are Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas and Virginia.

Similar measures have been passed in at least one legislative chamber in Louisiana, Utah and Michigan, and the Pennsylvania Senate has passed a nonbinding resolution to prohibit the use of adjusted data in redistricting.

All the bills have been introduced by Republican state legislators, and votes have followed party lines.

The movement of the fight over statistical sampling to the states is a deliberate strategy on the part of

national leaders of the Republican Party who felt their prospects of blocking sampling in Washington were small.

In recent years, President Clinton has vetoed bills that would have prevented the Census Bureau from supplementing its count with sampling.

The Supreme Court gave opponents of sampling only a partial victory in 1999 when it ruled that sampling could not be used in determining population counts used in allocating seats in the House of Representatives among the states. But the high court was silent on whether sampling could be used to draw lines for legislative districts.

Responding to the court decision, the Census Bureau announced that it would produce two sets of population figures. One would be used to apportion seats in the House of Representatives among the states. The other set of numbers could be used to draw Congressional and state legislative districts.

"After the Supreme Court decision, it was decided the prospects of achieving much more in Washington had basically disappeared," said a Republican strategist who was familiar with the strategy but who asked not to be identified. He added, "It was a definite strategy that once all the progress that could be made in Washington was done, the idea was to turn it over to the states."

By adjusting the population counts using numbers from the national sample, the Census Bureau hopes to avoid a repeat of the 1990 Census, in which more than eight million people, mainly members of minority groups, were missed, and four million people, mainly whites, were counted twice.

In New Jersey today, arguments over the legality of statistical sampling and whether it produces more or less accurate population figures for small geographic areas — familiar debating points in Washington in recent years — echoed in Trenton.

"An argument can be made that statistical sampling can be more accurate on a universal level, say for getting the population of New Jersey," said Representative Michael Patrick Carroll, a Republican from Morris County and the chief sponsor of the bill. "But when you're trying to get the population of Grove Street in Morristown, then statistical sampling has a huge margin of error, something along the lines of 35 percent."

Census officials acknowledge that in some tests that were conducted before the actual census, population figures derived by using numbers from a national sample were off by

about 35 percent in some small geographic areas. But these officials say figures obtained by traditional counting methods are equally inaccurate.

Today, a group of black ministers and African-American and Hispanic legislators called on Governor Whitman to veto Mr. Carroll's measure when it reaches her desk.

At a news conference, the Rev. Reginald P. Jackson, executive director of the Black Ministers' Council, said that the bill "dilutes, lessens and, in fact, negates the votes of Latinos, African-Americans and other minorities."

Peter McDonough, a spokesman for Mrs. Whitman, said that the governor had not decided whether she would sign the measure.

"We have not formed an opinion on the bill yet," Mr. McDonough said. "We are waiting to hear more of the debate."

Q:

We do make memorization to ~~study~~ studies.

A: Can't be more accurate ~~than~~.

Karen Tramontano

06/01/2000

11:11:35 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: census press guidance

would you take a crack at this guidance?

----- Forwarded by Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP on 06/01/2000 11:11 AM -----

Jenni R. Engebretsen
06/01/2000 10:25:28 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Carolyn T. Wu/WHO/EOP@EOP, Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: census press guidance

we're looking for updated census guidance, please -- this AP story says there have been scam artists masquerading as census-takers and also references an email sent by the POTUS to encourage those who have yet to respond to do so.

^PM-Census-Scams,460

^Consumer groups say scam artists posing as census-takers

^By GENARO C. ARMAS= ^Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) The Census Bureau and a consumer watchdog group are warning people to look out for scam artists who may be masquerading as census-takers, but are actually trying to trick people into giving up Social Security and bank account numbers.

Census director Kenneth Prewitt said he had heard reports of six such scams going on around the country, but did not consider it a serious threat to the success of the once-a-decade population count.

However, such scattered reports often are "just the tip of the iceberg," said Holly Cherico, spokeswoman for the Better Business Bureau.

"This is typical of scams in two ways it's tied to a timely event that people remember, and it's trading on the legitimacy and credibility of the federal government," Cherico said.

Rep: Carolyn Maloney of New York, ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee's census panel, has asked the FBI to investigate. Census officials say some of the calls appear to be coming from a Baltimore-area phone number.

"They finally gave up. They said 'we understand we get a lot of people who are reluctant, that you have a hard time doing this,'" said Nicole Bennett, a Senate staffer on Capitol Hill, after getting a similar call recently at home. "We both disagreed, and I'm not caustic or easily antagonized."

Similar warnings have also popped up in Arkansas, North Dakota, and in northeastern Pennsylvania, where there is a higher number of elderly residents.

A census-taker will never ask for a Social Security and bank account number at the door or over the phone. They also must wear a Census Bureau identification badge and give you the number of your local Census office so you can verify they are legitimate.

Forms were sent out to 120 million households in March, and 78 million of them have been

returned. In April, census-takers began the 10-week task of trying to track down the missing 42 million.

As of Wednesday, Prewitt said that only about 10 million of those homes had yet to be contacted, though those households will be "the most difficult yet."

Those who remain uncouneted include hard-to-reach inner-city residents, anti-government people, and those concerned their answers will not remain confidential, Prewitt said.

The Census Bureau hopes an encouraging e-mail sent Wednesday from President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore to census-takers will help.

"We will have to redouble our efforts to reach the remaining 8 percent of households, so that we can deliver to the country the accurate and complete census it needs for the coming decade," Prewitt said.

JUN-01-2000 16:12 CENSUS CONG AFFAIRS 301 457 3679 P.02/04

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF **COMMERCE** **NEWS**

WASHINGTON, DC 20230

ECONOMICS
AND
STATISTICS
ADMINISTRATION

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2000

Decennial Media Relations
301-457-3691/301-457-3620 (fax)
301-457-1037 (TDD)
e-mail: 2000usa@census.gov

CB00-CS.16

RESPONSE TO QUERY

Statement of Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt on Potential Census Imposters

As Census 2000 workers knock on doors and complete the enumeration of people who did not mail back a questionnaire, the Census Bureau is concerned that the public could receive calls or mail from organizations purporting to collect "census" information or claiming to use confidential census information as a way to validate their inquiries.

For example, we received a report that a telemarketer claimed to have obtained a prospective customer's name and telephone number from the census; that claim is absolutely false. People receiving such calls or mail should know that no organization has received any confidential information from the Census Bureau or Census 2000 and that no private telemarketing organization is affiliated with or authorized by the Census Bureau or Census 2000. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, all census information is confidential and cannot be shared with any government agency, law enforcement organization, court, business or other kind of organization.

People who have not returned the Census 2000 questionnaire will receive calls and visits from official Census Bureau enumerators. Census enumerators prominently display a red, white and blue plastic badge with their name and the words "Census Enumerator" written on the front. The U.S. flag appears in the upper left corner and a seal of the United States Department of Commerce-Bureau of the Census appears in the middle.

There are other activities under way that are not part of the 2000 decennial census in which persons could receive a phone call or visit and be asked additional questions. Census workers conducting these operations will identify themselves by name and, during a personal visit, by photo identification badge. Census 2000 operations are conducted out of 520 local census offices, while surveys and other operations are handled out of 12 regional offices. Persons having questions about the identity of Census 2000 or Census Bureau survey workers may call their local census or regional offices. Numbers for these offices can be obtained from directory assistance or from the Census Bureau Web site at <<http://www.census.gov>>.

We urge the public to make sure that anyone identifying themselves as an official U.S. Census Bureau employee is, indeed, who they say they are and then to cooperate fully with them.

Response To Query On Social Security Numbers

The Census Bureau does not require respondents to give their Social Security Number (SSN), although it is requested in a small decennial Census 2000 experiment and in three surveys.

The Census Bureau is implementing a series of experiments during Census 2000 to measure the effectiveness of new techniques, methodologies and technologies in order to form recommendations for subsequent testing and possible innovations in the 2010 census. One of these experiments is investigating how the public responds to requests for Social Security numbers on census questionnaires. During this experiment, about 20,000 households received a special census form and a letter asking them to provide their Social Security number voluntarily. This request was made in the mail-out/mail-back phase of the census. No households were being asked to provide a Social Security number during the Non-Response Follow-Up operation.

The Census Bureau also conducts a number of household surveys under the authority and provisions of Section 182 of Title 13, United States Code. This law requires the Census Bureau to keep all information about the respondent and their household strictly confidential and to use the information for statistical purposes only. The Privacy Act and the Paperwork Reduction Act also require the Census Bureau to state the purposes of the data being collected and the fact that the surveys are voluntary. The Census Bureau meets these requirements by sending each sample household a letter prior to the interview. The Census Bureau asks respondents in three ongoing surveys to provide their Social Security numbers on a voluntary basis. Those surveys are:

- The Current Population Survey of 50,000 households is jointly sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau and is the official source of the monthly unemployment rate, the annual poverty rate and other important income-related statistics.
- The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) of 36,000 households is longitudinal in nature and follows sample persons through three to four years of interviewing to measure changes in income, program participation and other social-demographic characteristics. It is an important source of data for addressing welfare and program policy issues.
- The Survey of Program Dynamics encompasses 20,000 households who responded to the 1992 and 1993 SIPP and is specifically designed to measure the effects of welfare reform. The program will finish collecting data in 2002. The results - more than 10 years of data on respondents' income, program participation and measures of well-being - will be used to evaluate welfare reform from.

Section 6 of Title 13, United States Code, specifically authorizes the Census Bureau to acquire data from other agencies instead of conducting direct inquiries. The Social Security numbers collected in these surveys permit the Census Bureau to combine survey responses with corresponding, administrative data. This helps policy-makers evaluate and enhance the programs they administer. As the Privacy Act requires, respondents are told that the Social Security

number is being requested so information from other agencies may be combined with their survey responses.

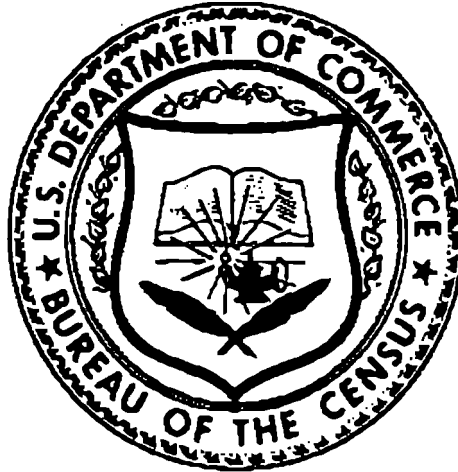
The primary use of Social Security numbers in these surveys is to evaluate the accuracy of income and program participation data that are collected in these surveys. The number is of mutual benefit to the Census Bureau and the agency that has provided the corresponding administrative data. Social Security numbers have enabled the Census Bureau to evaluate how well our surveys measure wage and salary income, pensions and interest income. Since these survey measures are used to calculate the official poverty rate, the Census Bureau needs to understand any errors or shortfalls in survey reporting so they can be corrected. Another key use of Social Security numbers is to augment information collected in a survey by adding historical information or data collected in a different context. This additional information enhances the usefulness of the data we collect without adding to respondent burden or data collection costs.

All of these data-sharing arrangements are conducted under strict security guidelines and individual records are protected from unauthorized use just as the survey responses are. Only sworn Census Bureau employees can see data that could identify an individual.

Since providing an individual's Social Security number is strictly voluntary, no one should do so unless they are comfortable with.

-X-

G: 2000folder/RTQfolder/SSNRTQ (word document)



OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Bureau of the Census
U. S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D C 20233

Telecopier Cover Sheet

DATE: June 1, 2000

FROM: **Robin Bachman**

Telecopier
301-457-3679

Telephone
301-457-2123

TO: Irene Bueno

202/456-5581

No. of pages attached: 3



Robin.J.Bachman@ccmail.census.gov

06/01/2000 02:49:12 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: EVERYONE: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

----- Forwarded by Robin J Bachman/CAO/HQ/BOC on 06/01/2000
02:47 PM -----

From: BROADCAST on 06/01/2000 10:29 AM

To: ALLHQ List

cc:

Subject: EVERYONE: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the American people and our entire Administration, Vice President Gore and I want to express our admiration and gratitude to the men and women of the Census Bureau for your extraordinary efforts to ensure the success of the 2000 Census.

Director Kenneth Prewitt has reported that the Census Bureau has completed work on more than 90 percent of the housing units in the country. I understand that all operations are on track and that they are meeting or exceeding quality standards. This is truly welcome news. Already you have helped reverse a three-decade decline in America

?s civic response to the Census. This is a proud

achievement for our nation, and especially for the professional staff who designed Census 2000 during the last decade.

I know that this impressive feat was accomplished with the help of more than 460,000 part-time, temporary workers who have taken up the challenge to count their own communities across America. Some of you have joined the Census as a second job, others have returned to work after retirement, and still others

are joining the workforce for the first time to acquire new skills and experience.

I congratulate all of you-- whether temporary or permanent-- on your outstanding performance.

As you count America, America is counting on you to produce the most complete and accurate Census in the modern era. A successful Census is one that gives recognition to all who reside in our nation, one that ensures all are represented in their government, and one that ensures tax resources are distributed fairly.

I also know that the toughest part of the job still lies ahead. There will be some who resist, misunderstand, or even evade your efforts. The Vice President and I encourage you in these next weeks to do your best to meet these challenges because, as each of you recognizes, the last person counted is every bit as important as the first.

As you go forward to complete your task, you have our full support and deepest appreciation.