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OVERSIGHT OF THE 2000 CENSUS: STATUS OF NON-RESPONSE FOLLOW-UP

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

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OVERSIGHT OF THE 2000 CENSUS: STATUS OF NON-RESPONSE FOLLOW-UP

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in room 2247, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Dan Miller (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Miller and Maloney.

Staff present: Jane Cobb, staff director; Chip Walker, deputy staff director; Lara Chamberlain and Amy Althoff, professional staff members; Mike Miguel, senior data analyst; Andrew Kavaliunas, clerk; David McMillen and Mark Stephenson, minority professional staff members; and Earley Green, minority assistant clerk.

Mr. MILLER. Good morning. Welcome to the May hearing with Director Prewitt on the status of the decennial census. We will begin with opening statements, and then we will have a chance for Mrs. Maloney and myself to ask some questions of Director Prewitt.

Thank you, Director Prewitt, for once again being here. Since we last met, the Census Bureau has reported on the final numbers for the mail response rates. The final mail response rate of 65 percent will be at least 4 percentage points above what the Bureau had budgeted for. As you have said, Director Prewitt, this was no small achievement. The mail response rate had been in steady decline since 1970. In the absence of significant improvements, the mail response rate would have been expected to be in the neighborhood of 55 percent this time.

The Census Bureau is to be commended for halting the slide in civic participation in the mail out/mail back phase of the census.

I firmly believe that the combination of community partnerships, paid advertising and a strong commitment to the census by Congress—which in the end will have appropriated almost $6.8 billion, have all contributed to the better than expected mail response rate. A story in yesterday's New York Times reported that all signs seem to indicate that the outreach advertising and partnership programs have succeeded in raising the response rates for those missed in the 1990 census or at least preventing them from declining. This is significant since Republicans have maintained that if we funded the proper outreach and promotion programs, we could reach the undercounted. I'm gratified to see we were right.

I am, though, still disappointed that three significant programs were not included in this census. A second mailing, which easily could have boosted response percentage rates into the 70's, based on the results of the address rehearsal, the use of administrative records and the ability of local governments to check the Census Bureau's work. In fact, on the final issue of post census local review, a local government in the Tampa area has already decided to sue the Census Bureau.

Director Prewitt, in a letter dated April 14, I asked that you reprogram the budgetary savings from an increased mail response rate to reach those groups that are traditionally undercounted. In that letter I estimated the savings to be about $34 million for every percentage point above 61 percent. This estimate was based on a report issued by the General Accounting Office in December 1999. I also explained that I would be of any assistance in gaining approval from the Congress to transfer money between frame works. To date my help has not been solicited. And in a written response to me you also noted that although you believed there would be budgetary savings, you believe that the GAO estimate may not be accurate because of a lower than expected enumerator productivity rate.

Fair enough. I want to be clear on one point. This chairman and this Congress expect you to use all of the tools in your tool box to reach the undercounted. This windfall in your budget is expected to be used directly to reach those not counted during the mail response phase of the census and those traditionally undercounted. This opportunity must not go to waste. It would not be acceptable to miss our objectives and have funding left to spare. More advertising, more outreach, higher pay rates and special enumeration techniques must be considered to help eliminate the differential undercount during the most difficult part of the full enumeration, non-response follow-up.

And speaking of non-response follow-up, I was delighted that the House leadership devoted part of the Republican radio address on April 22 delivered by Congressman Tom Davis, a member of this committee, saying,

> Next week, hundreds of thousands of enumerators will fan out across the country to find those not already counted. These enumerators are your neighbors and friends, co-workers and family. When an enumerator comes to your door, please cooperate by giving them a few minutes of your time and answering their questions. By law your answers are kept strictly confidential. Your census answers are important to allocate seats in Congress and to help government officials determine where to build roads, day-care facilities and schools. In the upcoming weeks, if you should encounter a census worker, please thank them for their effort and dedication to the 2000 census.

I want to personally thank Congressman Davis for delivering this important message.

[The information referred to follows:]

Congressman Tom Davis, Republican Radio Address 11:06 A.M., SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2000

Hi, I'm Congressman Tom Davis from Virginia's 11th District, and it's my pleasure to be joining you today to talk about an issue close to my home and to my heart: technology as the fuel that is driving our nation's economy.

But Before I begin my remarks, let me say a few words about our largest civic ceremony – the 2000 Census.

In January of 1999, the Supreme Court agreed with Republicans that everyone in America had to be counted during the census. This week, the Census Bureau reported that 65 percent of America's households had returned their census questionnaire. While this is better than originally expected, it does mean that more than 43 million households in America have yet to be counted.

Next week, hundreds of thousands of enumerators will fan out across the country to find those not already counted. These enumerators are your neighbors and friends, co-workers and family. When an enumerator comes to your door please cooperate by giving them a few minutes of your time and answering their questions. By law, your answers are kept strictly confidential.

Your census answers are important to allocate seats in Congress, and to help government officials determine where to build roads, day-care facilities and schools. In the upcoming weeks, if you should encounter a census worker please thank them for their effort and dedication in the 2000 Census.

Now, back to technology. Just a few years back, very few people foresaw the spread of electronic commerce, and even fewer talked about the likelihood that the Internet would become the major worldwide distribution center for goods and services.

The Internet already has changed most of our lives. A whole new world of information, news, entertainment and educational opportunities are now just a mouse click away, in our homes and schools and workplaces.

Consumers flock to the World Wide Web because it offers an unprecedented degree of information and convenience. The Internet is succeeding because it offers Americans the same sort of freedom that the automobile offered our parents and grandparents. Cars gave individuals the ability to go just about anywhere in the country safely and efficiently – without consulting a train or bus schedule.

It was individuals, not bureaucrats, who set the destination.

The Internet is today's cyber car, bringing freedom to a whole new level.

The high technology industry has also been a boon to our economy, creating more than 1 million high-paying jobs since 1993. In my home state of Virginia, some 12,100

technology-based firms call Virginia home, employing more than 370,000 workers and contributing more than $19.4 billion in wages.

So how does government protect and promote this new technology?

First, we must recognize that it is entrepreneurs, visionaries, and risk-takers who are driving this revolution. These creators of the new economy need freedom to explore and develop. They don't need burdensome government regulations, bureaucratic interference or higher taxes to hinder progress.

Recently, the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce sent a strong anti-tax report to Congress, and the Congress, under Republican leadership, received their message loud and clear.

During the next few weeks, Congress will vote to extend the current moratorium on Internet taxes that expires in the fall of 2001.

We also intend to ban taxes on Internet access charges and eliminate the three percent federal excise tax on consumers' telephone bills. This tax was created to help finance the Spanish-American War and now only serves as an extra burden that could hinder Internet access and expansion.

But strategies to promote the continued growth of the IT industry do not end with regulation and taxation issues.

We must address the shortage of high-tech workers, estimated at more than 800,000 nationwide, by increasing the number of H-1B visas given each year to qualified scientists and computer engineers; American companies should have access to the best minds available, anywhere in the world. At the same time, we should expand public-private technology training initiatives, get more computers into more schools, and find innovative ways to prepare our nation's workforce for the Information Age.

Eliminating the Social Security earnings penalty, which the House did in February, means more of our seniors can lend their expertise to the IT industry without unfairly forfeiting much of the money they earn.

And perhaps the single most important technology-related issue before Congress this year is expanding trade opportunities. The new economy is a world economy, and U.S. businesses must be able to compete and sell their products and services in the world arena. That means we must support common-sense trade agreements that allow the American people to compete in growing markets.

The vast majority of Republicans in Congress support the President's China trade agreement. Bipartisan trade legislation with China is good for America's high tech industry, for its farmers, and for its factory workers. And it's also good for the poor and often oppressed people of China; all freedoms follow the freedom of commerce.

The bottom line is, we in the federal government need to do all we can to ensure we are promoting, and not inhibiting, the continued ascension of e-commerce. The empires of the future are the empires of the mind.

But for too many years some Members have been stuck in the Industrial Age, refusing to buck their old ties to organized labor and trial lawyers and recognize that the Information Age demands new approaches and new ideas. The Democrats' vision of a hands-on, protectionist role for the federal government will only lead us backwards. Their view of the workplace as managers versus workers is becoming less and less relevant to an expanding entrepreneurial, tech-savvy workforce.

Republicans know that the 21st century economy can't survive with the regulatory framework of the past. We grasp what America's economic expansion really means, and where it can take us. That's why we talk openly of jettisoning our outdated regulatory frameworks that discourage individuals from unleashing their pioneer spirits. America's high-tech explosion has benefited all Americans – regardless of income or circumstances.

But we have so much more to achieve. It's more important than ever that Congress get the government out of the way. We should resist efforts to erect roadblocks to future progress when we're just getting started.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today.

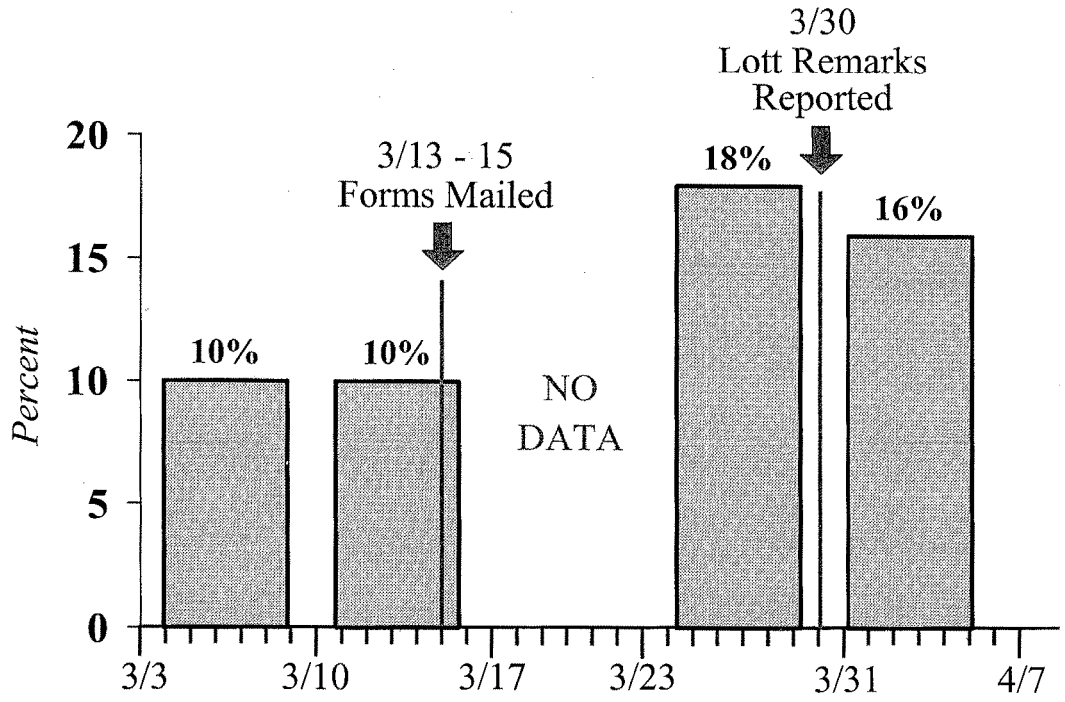
Mr. MILLER. Director Prewitt, there remains a great deal of debate surrounding the long form. This subcommittee has been trying to get a handle on just what is fueling this debate. Is there really a legitimate feeling out in the public that the long form questions are intrusive? Or, as some have charged, is this debate being fueled by a few elected officials who have expressed concerns for their constituents' privacy worries?

Dr. Prewitt, when you came before the subcommittee about a month ago, and in numerous public events since, you cited a poll by InterSurvey. You have claimed that people's uneasiness about the long form jumped the week congressional leaders made their remarks. What you neglected to say was that in fact the bump in concerns coincided with the arrival of census questionnaires in people's homes.

When we went back and looked at the polling data, it shows that the rate of concern had actually reached 18 percent by March 26—before the comments by Senator Lott and Governor Bush were widely reported in the press. The reason why the previous surveys showed the lower levels of concerns was because the forms had yet to be mailed. What's more, the very next week after what was supposedly alarming remarks, the concern rate over the long form fell 2 percentage points. I am very disappointed that you were not more forthright regarding this poll which is being conducted in conjunction with the Census Bureau. Since April 18th, you have known that your worries about the long form have been "resolved," and that long and short form return rates have exceeded your expectations. Yet you have continued to express concerns about the long form and blame Republicans for their comments.

[The information referred to follows:]

Response: "Census is an Invasion of Privacy"



Source: Data provided by interSurvey
Chart compiled by Subcommittee on the Census

Mr. MILLER. I can only conclude that since your public comments do not match your own internal information, you are attempting to politicize the census at this crucial period of time.

Director Prewitt, let me call your attention to the next chart. This is a copy of page 5 of the April 18 Executive State of the Census report produced by the Census Bureau. It clearly states that issue regarding the long form response had been resolved.

Resolved, Long Form Response Rate—The difference between the response rate for the long form and short form has been greater than expected. We were concerned because conducting proportionally more long form interviews affect productivity in non-response follow-up. Resolution: By April 18, both the long form return rate and short form return rate have exceeded our goals.

[The information referred to follows:]

CENSUS 2000
EXECUTIVE STATE OF THE CENSUS REPORT

Resolved

Long Form Response Rate - The difference between the response rate for the long form and the short form has been greater than expected. We were concerned because conducting proportionally more long form interviews affect productivity in Nonresponse Followup.

Resolution: ~~By April 18, both the long form return rate and the short form return rate had~~ exceeded our goals.

Update/Leave Keying - The keying for the Update/Leave and Urban Update/Leave address registers is not progressing quickly enough because the enumerators collected more address corrections than expected.

Resolution: Based on a revised schedule for incorporating the results of Update/Leave and Urban Update/Leave into the Master Address File, it now appears that we can absorb a delay in completing the keying activities without affecting subsequent activities.

Upcoming Events

This section presents operations and events that are to occur in the next two weeks.

- Begin Coverage Edit Followup
- Begin Nonresponse Followup

Current Activities

This section presents a description, the status, an assessment, and status data (if available) for operations in progress.

Mr. MILLER. While internally this issue is, "unresolved," you have continued to overstate the problem. I have to say that I am disappointed that the head of an agency that prides itself on accuracy and quality of data would succumb to these political temptations. At the same time, I realize that you are a political appointee of President Clinton, and as such, are subject to the influences of this administration.

As I have said before, this administration is as much to blame for these increasing privacy concerns as anyone is. From the Pentagon to the White House, this administration has demonstrated time and time again that it only believes in privacy when it is politically expedient. President Clinton and Vice President Gore must be paying attention to the current privacy issues regarding the long form because they have just launched a new privacy initiative. I find this almost laughable considering the breaches of trust this administration has been accustomed to.

Let me also say how deeply concerned I am about the accidental faxing of confidential information to a private household that recently occurred in Congressman Coburn's district. For our viewing and listening audience let me give some of the facts as reported in the Phoenix newspaper earlier this week.

A Census Bureau employee at the regional office accidentally dialed in a wrong fax number and faxed information on Census Bureau applicants to a private household instead of another census office. This information included names, addresses, test scores and Social Security numbers and is protected by the Privacy Act. The fax was then given to Congressman Coburn and that is how this serious breach of security, even if accidental, came to light.

I have been a staunch defender of the Bureau's commitment to privacy, but frankly that confidence has been shaken. You cannot placate Members of Congress and the American people who have expressed concerns about privacy and confidentiality on the one hand and then allow this kind of thing to happen on the other. I certainly can't assure people with the same level of confidence I had a week ago about the Bureau's ability to protect their privacy.

Director Prewitt, the Founding Fathers were very wise. I now know that the real reason we only conduct the census every 10 years is because no one can possibly go through this process yearly, whether on your side or mine. This has been truly an arduous task, but it is made more difficult when we see a pattern of behavior that lends itself to partisan politics. You made a commitment to be nonpartisan, and I will hold you to it.

Mrs. Maloney.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Dan Miller follows:]

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS
The Honorable Dan Miller, Chairman

H1-114 O'Neill House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 5, 2000

Contact: Chip Walker
202/226-1973

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN DAN MILLER
MAY 5, 2000
OVERSIGHT HEARING ON THE CENSUS

Good morning.

Thank you Director Prewitt for being here this morning. Since we last met, the Census Bureau has reported on the final numbers for the mail response rates. The final mail response of 65 percent, which may inch even higher, will be at least four percentage points above what the Bureau had budgeted for.

As you have said, Director Prewitt, this was no small achievement.
The mail response rate had been in steady decline since 1970. In the absence of significant improvements the mail response rate would have been expected to be in the neighborhood of 55 percent this time.

The Census Bureau is to be commended for halting the slide in civic participation in the mail-out mail-back phase of the census.

I firmly believe that the combination of community partnerships, paid advertising and a strong commitment to the census by Congress -- which in the end will have appropriated almost $6.8 billion -- have all contributed to the better than expected mail response rate.

A story in yesterday's NY Times reported that all signs seem to indicate that the outreach, advertising and partnership programs have succeeded in raising the response rates for the those missed in the 1990 Census or at least preventing them from declining.

This is significant since Republicans have maintained that if we funded the proper outreach and promotional programs, we could reach the undercounted.

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based on the results of the dress rehearsal, the use of administrative records and the ability of local governments to check the Census Bureau's work.

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Fair enough.

I just want to be very clear on one point. This Chairman and this Congress expect you to use all the tools in your toolbox to reach the undercounted. This windfall in your budget is expected to be used directly to reach the traditionally undercounted and those who did not mail back their forms. This opportunity must not go to waste. It will not be acceptable to miss our objectives and have funding left to spare.
More advertising, more outreach, higher pay rates and special enumeration techniques are just some of the items the Bureau must consider to help eliminate the differential undercount during the most difficult part of the full enumeration – nonresponse follow-up.

And, speaking of nonresponse follow-up, I was delighted that the House Leadership devoted part of the Republican Radio Address on April 22 delivered by Congressman Tom Davis of Virginia saying, in-part, Quote,

"Next week, hundreds of thousands of enumerators will fan out across the country to find those not already counted. These enumerators are your neighbors and friends, co-workers and family. When an enumerator comes to your door please cooperate by giving them a few minutes of your time and answering their questions. By law, your answers are kept strictly confidential.

Your census answers are important to allocate seats in Congress, and to help government officials determine where to build roads, day-care facilities and schools. In

the upcoming weeks, if you should encounter a census worker please thank them for their effort and dedication in the 2000 Census." End Quote

I want to personally thank Congressman Davis for delivering this important message.

Director Prewitt, there still remains a great deal of debate surrounding the Long Form. This Subcommittee has been trying to get a handle on just what is fueling this debate. Is there really a legitimate feeling out in the public that the Long Form questions are intrusive? Or, as some have charged, is this debate being fueled by a few elected officials who have expressed concerns for their constituents' privacy worries?

Dr. Prewitt, when you came before the subcommittee about a month ago, and in numerous public events since, you cited a poll by InterSurvey. You have claimed that people's uneasiness about the long form jumped the week congressional leaders made their remarks.

What you neglected to say was, that in fact, that bump in concerns coincided with the arrival of census questionnaires in people's homes. [First chart please]

When we went back and looked at the polling data, it shows that the rate of concern had actually reached 18% by March 26 – before comments by Senator Lott and Governor Bush were being widely reported in the Press. The reason why the previous surveys showed a lower level of concerns was because the forms had yet to be mailed.

What's more the very next week after what were supposedly alarming remarks the concern rate over the long form fell two percentage points.

I am very disappointed that you were not more forthright regarding this poll, which is being conducted in conjunction with the Census Bureau.

Since the 18th of April you have known internally that your worries about the long form have been quote "Resolved," end quote and that long and short form return rates have exceeded your expectations. And, yet, you have continued to publicly express concerns about the long form and blame Republicans for their comments.

I can only conclude that since your public comments do not match what your own internal information is telling you, that you are attempting to politicize the census at this crucial period in time.
Director Prewitt, let me call your attention to the next chart.

[Next chart please]

This is a copy of page 5 of the April 18 Executive State of the Census Report, produced by the Census Bureau. It clearly states that the issue regarding the long form response rate had been resolved.

I quote, **"Resolved,** Long Form Response Rate – The difference between the response rate for the long form and the short form has been greater than expected. We were concerned because conducting **proportionally** more long form interviews affect productivity in Nonresponse Follow-up.

Resolution: By April 18, both the long form return rate and the short form return rate had exceeded our goals." Unquote.

So, while internally, this issue is quote "resolved" unquote – you have continued to overstate the problem.

I have to say that I have come to expect this type of disregard and distortion of the truth from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but I am very disappointed that, as a professional – the head of an agency that prides itself on accuracy and quality of data, that you would succumb to these political temptations.

At the same time, I realize that you are a political appointee of President Clinton, and as such, are subject to the influences of this Administration.

As I have said before, this Administration is as much to blame for these increasing privacy concerns as anyone is. From the Pentagon to the White House this Administration has demonstrated time and time again that it only believes in privacy when it's politically expedient.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore must be paying attention to the current privacy issues regarding the Long Form because they have just launched a new privacy initiative. I find this almost laughable considering the breaches of trust this Administration has been accustomed to.

Let me also say how deeply concerned I am about the accidental faxing of confidential information to a private household that recently occurred in Congressman Coburn's district. For our viewing and listening audience let me give some of the facts as reported in the Phoenix newspaper earlier this week.
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The fax was then given to Congressman Coburn and that is how this serious breech of security, even if accidental, came to light.

I have been a staunch defender of the Bureau's commitment to privacy, but frankly that confidence has now been shaken.

You cannot placate Members of Congress and the American people who have expressed concerns about privacy and confidentiality on the one hand, then allow this kind of thing

to happen on the other. I certainly can't assure people with the same level of confidence I had a week ago about the Bureau's ability to protect their privacy.

Director Prewitt, the Founding Fathers were very wise. I now know that the real reason we only conduct a census every 10 years: it's because no one could possibly go through this process yearly, whether on your side or mine.

This has truly been an arduous task. However, it is honestly made more difficult when we see a pattern of behavior that lends itself to partisan politics. You made a commitment to be nonpartisan and I will hold you to it.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On April 27th, the most critical and labor intensive phase of census 2000 began, as census takers fanned out across America to visit those households which did not mail back their questionnaires. These next 10 weeks will undoubtedly be the most difficult faced by the Bureau during the 2000 census.

I urge all Americans to cooperate with these census takers—people from their own communities who have undergone a security screening and who will be easily identifiable.

For the most part, these workers are your neighbors and friends, hired from the local community because they know its streets and neighborhoods, speak its languages, and are familiar with its cultures.

Your cooperation is vital to the success of the 2000 census. Your answers are strictly confidential. No other government agency or private individual will see your answers—not the IRS, the FBI, the INS, or the CIA. Please cooperate if an enumerator knocks on your door.

When you look back only a few months, the two biggest unanswered questions that had the potential to threaten the success of the census were what would the mail response rate be and would we be able to hire enough qualified workers to do non-response follow-up in the midst of this incredible economy?

Well, we now have the answer to both of these questions.

First, the Census Bureau through its remarkable advertising campaign and community outreach efforts has reached a 66 percent mail response rate for the 2000 census, an outstanding achievement which has reversed the decades-long decline in the participation of the American people with the census.

Second, as a result of careful planning, the Bureau has recruited 108 percent of its national hiring goal and I must say, Director, that having met many of these enumerators while working with the chairman on homeless night here in the district and while visiting with workers in Queens and Manhattan, I am really impressed with the people you have recruited.

The commitment and energy that they show to the task of counting America is inspiring given what I know is a challenging job of knocking on doors and trying to get people, especially New Yorkers, to take a minute and talk to you.

I would like, Mr. Chairman, to place in the record an article from yesterday's Boston Globe written by an enumerator that I think captures the spirit shown by enumerators. How hard they are working and how dedicated they are to their job, both counting Americans and keeping the information strictly confidential.

[The information referred to follows:]

The Boston Globe, May 4, 2000

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The Boston Globe

HEADLINE: VIEW FROM THE FRONT DOOR EDUCATES A CENSUS TAKER

BYLINE: By Jon Hall, Globe Correspondent

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - It's a little like stepping into a snapshot of the American experience. People appear at their doors with their hair down, not fully dressed. Some of them are in the middle of eating, cooking, or talking on the telephone. Most of them are pretty good-natured about finding someone from the US Census Bureau standing there, pen in hand. "Gee, I didn't expect you to come to my room," said one dorm-dwelling college student, interrupted as she studied for finals. "I'll bet you want my thingie don't you?" Grinning, she dug out the form from under a pile of paper. Then she rounded up the forms for some of her recalcitrant roommates, too.

I can't give you the names of any of the people I've talked to since I began working as an enumerator for the US Census Bureau. The bureau is serious about protecting citizens' privacy.

That said, making the rounds and going door-to-door, tracking down the people who didn't mail back their Census 2000 forms, is a lot like taking a gigantic Civics 101 class.

Not everyone is as cheerful about it as the college student, but the bulk of the people I counted tolerated the intrusion with a grin. Yes, lots of people admit that they neglected to fill out the forms mailed to them, but it seems to be more a matter of convenience than one of conviction, and few people were reluctant to talk to me.

This was a surprise; I'd read a lot about how much people resented filling out the forms, providing information. But as I made my rounds I found most people were curious about just what the census does, and many were willing to chat about it.

Going door-to-door to count residents is a daunting task, and tallying up the results even more so. Each person's information, whether on a short or long form, is coded and entered into computers. Meanwhile, other computers shuffle thousands of forms and envelopes and lists to ready the next phase of the effort, the Non Response Follow Up count, which started this week and ends July 7.

From 7 a.m. to midnight, the effort continues. Though our office was cluttered with hundreds of boxes and forms, nothing seemed unaccounted for. The office is so organized that one cannot buy a clipboard without higher approval; hiring a recycling firm to deal with all the waste paper took even more effort.

My test to qualify as a census worker was held at an Islamic center. Why? "They made a point of hiring people who are a cross-section of the community, so it really is a lively sample of the community," said Nora Kalliel, my examiner and a recruiter.

Kalliel, of Lebanese descent, said the census hired her so she could reach into different communities. "As far as I can understand," she said, "they took so much flak from the undercount in the last census, they made a special point of trying to get people from the neighborhoods, and also a cross section of the different racial and ethnic communities."

The test took 28 minutes, and reminded me of college admission tests. It required skill in clerical work, reading, tallying numbers, and analysis.

One question asked applicants to match words. "Do not permit any unauthorized person to see census information," the statement read, asking the test-taker to replace "unauthorized" with one of four choices: a)uninformed; b) unidentified; c) unofficial; or d) illegal. (The correct answer is c.)

I passed the test and joined trainer Janet Cruz and 17 others to learn the ins and outs of tallying residents of "group quarters," or GQs. GQs include dormitories, hospitals, prisons, and fraternities. After two days, we were ready for field work.

One of my first assignments was to count heads at a local fraternity. I was stunned to find the residents gone and a house that seemed to have survived some sort of war.

The guys are scattered to parts unknown, I reported to my boss, Darren Panahi. He just smiled and said I had to find them.

That's the way it is. Can't find someone? Keep looking, or hunt down administrative information that provides a snapshot of who was living at that address on April 1, 2000, the official census day. After weeks of being an enumerator, I found my feet often hurt, tired of what seemed like miles of hallways. This phase of the census is supposed to be completed Saturday. As time grows short, we've grown flexible, though not inaccurate. Don't have a date of birth? No problem. How about an age, or year in school?

Completing a short census form takes about a minute. Out of the nine questions on form D-20A (the most commonly used one), only six generally need to be answered to complete the survey.

I found people everywhere. I caught fraternity brothers in the midst of horseshoe matches, barbecues, and pick-up basketball games. Some sorority sisters interrupted lunch to get me what I needed. Sadly, the cook didn't offer me lunch (I wouldn't have taken it, but it sure smelled good).

People found me, too.

As I sat with several colleagues in the spartan meeting room of a YMCA recently, filling out forms with information from residents of the upper floors of the facility, an elderly man sauntered

up, pulled off his wrinkled baseball cap, and shyly asked what we were doing. I explained we were with the census and asked if he lived there. Had he filled out a form?

He said yes, he was a resident, and no, he hadn't filled out one.

"Well, I can fix you right up," I said, smiling as I checked off another name.

I did finally manage to find those missing fraternity boys. Last weekend, as I drove past the deserted house, saw a group of people standing by the grass-covered steps. I screeched to a stop.

"Hey, I'm from the census," I yelled as politely as possible.

"Tough about your house," I offered. "But I need to get a list of you guys, ages . . ."

At first they looked at me quizzically, then one smiled. "Yeah, sure," he said. And he gave me the information I needed.

Later, as I was leaving the census office, proud to have closed perhaps my hardest case, I ran into Pattye Van Buren-Craig, the office manager. I asked her whether she thought the census hierarchy would be comfortable about my writing this story.

"I think so," she said.

Then she added:

"But I did want to tell you my area manager wanted me to make sure you understand that if you violate Title 13 [the confidentiality provisions], we'll prosecute."

Like I said, they take the confidentiality thing seriously.

Mrs. MALONEY. These accomplishments are truly good news, and I must commend Dr. Prewitt, Marvin Raines, John Thompson and the entire decennial staff, and every employee of the Census Bureau, both permanent and temporary, for a job well done so far.

It appears that the census is on track.

Obviously in any operation as large as this there are going to be problems, problems that I am sure the chairman's questions will bring out in detail. But to me it seems that you and the staff have tried to meet these challenges head on, that you have been quick to inform the chairman and the public of the problems, something I don't think many organizations would do in such a quick and complete manner. You have warned us of what you think the challenges will be.

So while the news nationally is indeed good, it still means that a lot of work needs to be done, over a third of America's households must still receive a visit from the census taker. That's 42 million doors that need to be knocked on. I look forward to hearing from you, Dr. Prewitt, on how the next aspect of the census is coming and what we can expect.

But I really want to respond to some of the statements that Chairman Miller just made. I only want to speak for myself. I have never said that statements of Governor Bush, Senator Lott and Speaker Hastert, along with a dozen additional Members of Congress, are solely to blame for the privacy issues which have been raised about the census. But I must say, and I think the facts are very clear and speak for themselves, that the leadership of the Republican Party in the middle of a national civic ceremony in a national effort to count every single person in our country, to get vital information about our country so that we can plan and distribute Federal dollars fairly, they decided in the midst of this campaign to count everyone to go negative. They decided that they would not support this national effort but would trash it. They didn't show leadership and they didn't explain that all of this information is completely protected. What they did was pander to talk shows and right wing fringe groups. What they have done—and I would like to put in this record what they have done—in the midst of this is send out fundraising appeals calling it the Republican census document. That is what their effort is in the middle of this national civic ceremony.

I really believe very strongly that privacy is a tremendously important issue to every person in America, and I feel strongly about privacy and along with the leadership on the Banking Committee in a bipartisan way, Chairman Leach and many Democrats, and I was part of that effort, worked to put forward privacy language in the banking modernization bill.

The President has come forward with even more language on protection of financial information and he has put that before Congress and I will be a cosponsor of it. On another committee that I work on, Chairman Burton's committee, there have been many, many hearings on privacy over health records, and in a bipartisan way working with Chairman Horn, we have had many hearings and put forward legislation and worked for privacy in a bipartisan way.

But the census is protected. The confidentiality is protected and it is important for planning for our country, and as we have said many, many times, the questions on the census form are exactly the same questions on the long form that President Reagan and President Bush and every Member of Congress that got 3 years notice endorsed. It is even shorter than the form that went out in 1990. The only new question was added in response, as we know, to the welfare reform in a bipartisan way to get a tracking of how many grandparents are taking care of children. So I must say that the timing of the national Republican leadership in the midst of the most sensitive time during the mail back response time to basically call the census optional was just plain wrong.

May I put in the record the Republican national—it is called the Republican Census Document.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney and the information referred to follow:]

14th District • New York

Congresswoman

Carolyn **Maloney**

Reports

2430 Rayburn Building • Washington, DC 20515 • 202-225-7944
1651 Third Avenue • Suite 311 • New York, NY 10128 • 212-860-0606

Statement of Rep. Carolyn Maloney
Hearing on the Status of the 2000 Census

May 5, 2000

On April 27th, the most critical and labor intensive phase of Census 2000 began, as census takers fanned out across America to visit those households which did not mail back their questionnaires. These next ten weeks will undoubtedly be the most difficult faced by the Bureau during the 2000 Census.

I urge all Americans to cooperate with these census takers – people from your own communities who have undergone a security screening and who will be easily identifiable.

For the most part, these workers are your neighbors and friends, hired from the local community because they know its streets and neighborhoods, speak its languages, and are familiar with its cultures.

Your cooperation is vital to the success of the 2000 Census. Your answers are strictly confidential. No other government agency or private individual will see your answers – not the IRS, the FBI, INS, or the CIA. Please cooperate if an enumerator knocks on your door.

When you look back only a few months, the two biggest unanswered questions that had the potential to threaten the success of the Census were what would the mail response rate be and would we be able to hire enough qualified workers to do non response follow up in the midst of this incredible economy?

Well we now have the answer to both of these questions.

First, the Census Bureau through its remarkable advertising campaign and community outreach efforts has achieved a 66% mail response rate for the 2000 Census – an outstanding achievement which has reversed the decades-long decline in the participation of the American people with the Census.

Second, as a result of careful planning, the Bureau has recruited 108 percent of its national hiring goal and I must say director that having met many of these enumerators while working with the Chairman on homeless night here in the District and while visiting with workers in Queens and Manhattan, I am really impressed with the people you have recruited.

The commitment and energy that they show to the task of counting America is inspiring given what I know is a challenging job of knocking on doors and trying to get people --especially New Yorkers-- to take a minute and talk to you. I would like Mr. Chairman, to place in the record an article from yesterday's Boston Globe written by an enumerator, that I think captures the spirit shown by the enumerators. How hard they are working and how dedicated they are to their job both counting Americans and keeping the information strictly confidential.

These accomplishments are truly good news, and I must commend Dr. Prewitt, Marvin Raines, John Thompson and the entire decennial staff, and every employee of the Census Bureau both permanent and temporary for a job well done, so far.

It appears that the Census is on track.

Obviously in any operation as large as this there are going to be problems, problems that I am sure the Chairman's questions will bring out in detail. But to me it seems that you and the staff have tried to meet these challenges head on, that you have been quick to inform the Chairman and the public of the problems, something I don't think many organizations would do in such a quick and complete manner. You have warned us of what you think the challenges will be.

So while the news nationally is indeed good, it still means that a lot of work needs to be done, over a third of America's households must still receive a visit from a census taker. That's 42 million doors that need to be knocked on!

I look forward to hearing from you Dr. Prewitt on how the next aspect of the Census is coming and what we can expect.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE
310 FIRST STREET, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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PAID
REPUBLICAN
NATIONAL
COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN CENSUS DOCUMENT ENCLOSED

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Jim Nicholson
Chairman

Senator Trent Lott
Majority Leader

Congressman Dennis Hastert
Speaker

Congressman Dick Armey
Majority Leader

Dear Republican,

You are among a select group of Republicans who have been chosen to take part in an official **CENSUS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.**

Enclosed is your **CENSUS DOCUMENT** which was assigned and prepared especially for you as a representative of all Republicans living in your voting district.

Registration #: [redacted]

Voting District Code: [redacted]

And your answers will be used to develop a BLUEPRINT for the Republican Party for the next 10 years.

Also -- to help the Republican National Committee (RNC) and our Senate and House campaign committees save money -- your answers will be forwarded directly to House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and George W. Bush, our presumptive nominee, to help them create a unified, issues-based campaign plan to win the presidency and maintain our Republican majority in Congress in this year's election.

Because the Republican Party could not afford to print and mail an official **REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS** to each and every one of the 55,000,000 Republicans nationwide . . .

. . . your answers will represent the views and opinions of all Republican voters living in your voting district.

So even if you are undecided about some questions, please complete your **CENSUS DOCUMENT** and return it to me in the next 7 days to ensure we get ample and accurate results.

Should the Republican Party return the federal budget surplus to you in the form of tax cuts?

Or should the nearly $124 BILLION surplus be used to shore-up Social Security or reduce the National Debt?

Should our Party continue to work to stop all abortions? Or

Over, please

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should we focus only on what we can reasonably achieve, such as enacting a ban on partial birth abortion?

Should each and every immigrant to America be required to learn English? Should English be our country's official language?

Should we defend our nation against nuclear missile attack by building President Reagan's SDI shield or should we spend your money to rebuild our armed forces?

And what about so-called "homosexual rights?" Should "homosexual marriages" be banned? Should same-sex couples be prohibited from receiving federal or state domestic partnership benefits?

Make no mistake.

The consequences of your failure to complete your **CENSUS DOCUMENT** are real and serious. Without your answers to these and other questions . . .

. . . our leadership will not know how you and other Republicans at the grassroots level of our Party feel about the critical issues facing our nation in the next century.

We will be unable to develop a BLUEPRINT that will truly unify our Party.

And without your answers, the RNC cannot develop a campaign plan to organize and energize Republicans at the grassroots level of our Party and ensure a Republican President and Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

We will be doomed to repeat the results of the 1998 elections when many Republican voters stayed home, and we lost five Republicans in Congress.

And in the 2000 elections, that will hand the White House to the liberal Democrats . . .

. . . and the Congress to Dick Gephardt and his ultra-liberal allies.

So please do not delay in completing your official **REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS.**

Your **CENSUS DOCUMENT** is among the very first to be mailed. Based on your response, the RNC is planning to print and mail a **REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS** to 5.5 million Republicans so that we can

Next page, please

get a statistically reliable sampling of our Party.

But at a cost of $.40 each, our **CENSUS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY** will cost the RNC over $2.2 million.

So along with your completed **CENSUS DOCUMENT**, won't you also enclose a contribution of $500, $250, $100, $50 or even $25 to the Republican National Committee?

Your gift of $500 will allow another 1250 Republicans to take part in this official census. And $250 will help us reach 625 of our fellow party activists.

But more importantly, your contribution of any size will help the RNC unify our Party in advance of the 2000 elections!

2000 is a watershed year that will decide the direction our nation takes in this new century.

Republicans have the chance to lead this nation based on a BLUEPRINT and an agenda that represents your views. But we can only accomplish this goal if we regain control of the White House AND keep control of both Houses of Congress.

Right now the Democrats and the liberals are doing everything in their power to make sure that doesn't happen. President Clinton is raising money hand-over-fist for the Democrat Campaign Committees. The Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee has more money than our Republican counterpart. And the Democrats have only 5 open seats in Congress while Republicans have 22.

So our 5 seat majority in the House is in real jeopardy.

But worst of all, the big-labor union bosses have pledged $46 million to hire hundreds of "professional activists" -- hard core union organizers -- and put them in place in targeted congressional districts around the country.

Working together with the radical environmentalists and ultra liberal groups like People for the American Way and the Feminist Majority, these union organizers will put together a broad coalition of liberal grassroots activists to identify and get out their voters. This is the strategy that worked so well for them in 1998 and this year they will use it to impact the presidential campaign.

To counter these efforts, the Republican National Committee

Over, please

Page Four

has targeted 15 key states as must wins in the presidential election and to keep our Republican congressional majorities.

15 states where we must rebuild our party and get each and every Republican to the polls.

This is why your **CENSUS** is so important. We know the best way to reactivate Republicans is to have a strong agenda that reflects their concerns. And to do that, we need your help.

Won't you please:

1. Complete your specially registered **REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS** and return it to me today? I will distribute your answers to George W. Bush, our presumptive nominee, Senate Majority Leader Lott and Speaker Hastert so that together we can develop a BLUEPRINT for our nation's future and an aggressive 2000 campaign plan.

2. Enclose your most generous gift of $500, $250, $100, $50 or even $25 to help the RNC mail an official **REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS** to 5.5 million Republicans throughout the country?

Remember, your **CENSUS** is among the very first to be mailed, so we are really counting on you.

And we really appreciate your help and support.

Sincerely,

Jim Nicholson
Chairman

P.S. It is crucial that I receive your completed **REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS** back in the next 7 days. Based on your answers, the RNC will mail an additional 5.5 million **CENSUS DOCUMENTS** to your fellow Republicans in the next 6-8 weeks to unify and build our Party for the 2000 elections and the next decade. Please do not delay in completing your **CENSUS,** and please make your most generous contribution of $500, $250, $100, $50 or even $25 to help with our **CENSUS.** Thank you.

REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSUS DOCUMENT

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please check to make sure your name and address are correct. Please make any changes to the right of your name.
2. Using a blue or black pen, please completely color in the circle that most accurately reflects your view on each question. If you are unsure about a question, skip it and go to the next one.
3. Return your completed CENSUS DOCUMENT to the RNC for distribution to Party Leaders in the next 7 days.
4. Enclose your most generous gift to help the RNC expand its CENSUS PROJECT to 5.5 million participants.

CENSUS DOCUMENT REGISTERED TO:

[redacted]

REGISTRATION NUMBER: [redacted]

VOTING DISTRICT CODE: [redacted]

CENSUS DOCUMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

ECONOMIC ISSUES	
1. Do you support Republican efforts to provide you with tax cuts through a cut in the capital gains tax and ending the death tax and marriage penalty?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
2. Do you favor abolishing our current tax system?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
2a. If you answered yes, what type of system would you like to replace it with?	○ Flat Tax ○ National Sales Tax ○ Other_____
3. Do you think there should be a constitutional amendment requiring a Balanced Budget so that all future Congresses will continue the work Republicans have started that has led to a budget surplus?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
EDUCATION ISSUES	
1. Do you support a voucher system or school choice system allowing parents to decide which school their child attends?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
2. Do you think Congress should fight Bill Clinton and Al Gore's national standardized testing for local schools?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
SOCIAL ISSUES	
1. Should the Republican Congress continue to fight to pass and have signed into law a ban on partial birth abortion?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
2. Should all abortions be banned?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
3. Should Congress work to outlaw so called "homosexual marriages?"	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
4. Should English be declared our country's official language?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
CAMPAIGN AGENDA	
1. What are the top three issues you think George W. Bush, our presumptive nominee, and candidates for the House and Senate should focus on in campaign 2000?	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
2. Do you support the RNC's plans to target 15 states to turn out our rank and file on election day?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided
DEFENSE ISSUES	
1. Do you think the U.S. troops should not have to serve under United Nations commanders?	○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided

(Over, please)

CENSUS DOCUMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

2. Do you think that the U.S. should develop a ballistic missile program to defend against rogue states who have access to missiles that they could fire at the U.S.? ○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided

3. Do you think that the current level of military spending in the budget is sufficient for our defense needs? ○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided

REPU[redacted]

1. Do you support the election of a Republican President and keeping [redacted] majorities in both Houses of Congress? ○ Yes ○ No ○ Undecided

2. Will you join the Republican National Committee by making a contribution today?

○ **Yes,** I support the RNC and am enclosing my most generous contribution of :

○ **$500** ○ **$250** ○ **$100**** ○ **$50** ○ **$25** ○ **Other $**_____

***A gift of this amount pays to mail 250 more **CENSUS DOCUMENTS** to registered Republicans.*

Please make checks payable to: **RNC**
310 First St., SE • Washington, DC 20003 • www.RNC.org
Contributions or gifts to the RNC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

○ Yes, I support the RNC, but am unable to participate at this time. However, I have enclosed $11 to cover the cost of tabulating my survey.

○ No, I want Al Gore to be my next President.

SPECIAL QUESTIONS FOR RNC MEMBERS ONLY *(Your gift today makes you a member in good standing of the RNC.)*

1. Are you registered to vote? ○ Yes ○ No, but I plan to register

2. Regardless of your initial support for a candidate, will you support our Republican Presidential nominee? ○ Yes ○ No

3. Who do you think is our party's best candidate for Vice President?
   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

4. What is your age range? *(optional)* ○ 18-24 ○ 25-40 ○ 41-64 ○ 65+

Please return this entire CENSUS DOCUMENT along with your contribution.

You may make your 2000 contribution to the RNC by credit card if you choose by completing the information below:

Type of Credit Card: ☐ Personal ☐ Corporate

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number: Expiration Date:

Name as it appears on Card: Amount of Gift: $

Signature: Date:

Paid for by the Republican National Committee. Funds received in response to this solicitation will be deposited in the RNC's federal account unless otherwise prohibited. Federal election law requires us to report the following information*:

* Occupation: * Employer:

*☐ Please check if self-employed.

Telephone Number: E-Mail Address:

Contributions from foreign nationals are prohibited.

About the RNC . . .

The Republican National Committee is the only national GOP organization charged with helping to win Republican victories from the Courthouse to the White House. Your support will enable us to assist hundreds of candidates and state Party organizations throughout the United States - it's the single most important act in helping elect Republican leadership in the 2000 elections. Your immediate contribution is greatly appreciated.

Visit our website: www.rnc.org to keep up-to-date on campaign news.

Mr. MILLER. Without objection.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you.

Mr. MILLER. Well, I must take the chairman's prerogative to respond briefly to this. I am very disappointed. To say that the Republican leadership trashed the census, that is extreme political rhetoric. I am extremely disappointed. "Trashed the census?" Mrs. Maloney, the Speaker had a press conference with me a couple of weeks ago. We took time on the Saturday radio response to talk about the census. We provided every penny the Bureau has asked for. They may have been given more money. And to say that we trashed it is wrong.

When Members of Congress are responding to concerns of constituents, that is what Members of Congress are supposed to do. And then when we talk about this letter that was sent out, we have invested over $7 billion in the census and I take my role very seriously, and I try not to interject partisan politics in the process. So when the Southeastern Legal Foundation mailing went out, I put aside the fact that this group was responsible for a major ruling by the Supreme Court regarding the census. Their mailing did cross the line and I said so.

I didn't stick my head in the sand and blindly defend them, but any person looking at a mailing from the Republican National Committee talking about a Republican, unless you want to have a bill banning everybody from using the word census or Census Bureau, this is clearly—it took the Postal Service less than a day or so to say there was no rule broken. This is a frivolous claim made in an obvious attempt to score political points, and I would like to call upon my colleagues to join with me in stopping to play politics.

Director Prewitt, would you and Mr. Raines——

Mrs. MALONEY. May I respond?

Mr. MILLER. Let's get moving with the opening statements. Director Prewitt, would you rise, and Mr. Thompson and Mr. Raines.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. MILLER. Let the record note that they have answered in the affirmative. We appreciate that all of you are here again today.

Director Prewitt, next week you have been asked to serve jury duty, and there can't be a busier person in America right now in the middle of the census than the Director of the Census Bureau, but as we have all talked about the civic responsibility of the census, it is a civic responsibility to serve our communities on jury duty. So I commend your willingness to step aside from your responsibilities as Director so you can serve on the jury, and thank you.

Thank you once again for being here and you have an opening statement. The official statement of course will be entered in the record.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Prewitt follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF

KENNETH PREWITT

DIRECTOR, U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Before the Subcommittee on the Census

Committee on Government Reform

U.S. House of Representatives

May 5, 2000

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Maloney, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am pleased to be here today to provide an update on the status of Census 2000 activities. Last week, I had the honor to report good news about the state of civic responsibility in our country as reflected in the final tally for our *'90 Plus Five* program. Some 17 percent of local jurisdictions met the demanding goal of exceeding their 1990 mail response rate by 5 percentage points. I reported that questionnaires had been returned for 65 percent of the housing units in America. This matched the mail response rate for the 1990 census and exceeded the target in our budget by 4 percentage points. More importantly, it means that the country has stopped a 30-year decline in meeting our civic responsibilities. This is a serious achievement.

In reaching 65 percent, the public out-performed expectations. More than 100,000 census partners deserve credit. Congratulations are owed to thousands of mayors, county commissioners, teachers, community advocates, houses of worship, and other tribal, local government, civic, and business leaders; to Young and Rubicam and their partner agencies for the excellent advertising campaign; and to you, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Maloney, and other Members of Congress who have encouraged response to the census. Our partners and the public have treated the census as the serious civic event intended by the founders when they wrote the census into the U.S. Constitution.

But, unfortunately, we cannot rest on this achievement. We now move from one phase of the census to another--the very demanding task of convincing people who did not return their forms to cooperate when census-takers come to their door. While we received questionnaires for 65 percent of the housing units, that leaves more than a third of housing units that we must still visit. If we stopped now, the results could be disastrous for many communities. So, the Census Bureau will make a concerted effort to get responses from those remaining addresses.

Census enumerators were trained last week and they have begun making their rounds. These are our neighbors doing America's task. It is a difficult task. I know that from personal experience. I was an enumerator 40 years ago during the 1960 census when I was working my way through school. The job is more difficult today, in part, just because it is harder to find people at home. Households are smaller and more people are in the labor force. People are more concerned about privacy. There have been some indications that people may not cooperate, and I'll talk more about that in just a moment. So we need the help of our partners to sustain the civic momentum and commitment we saw in the first phase of the census. Those who did not meet their civic responsibilities previously now have a chance to do so by cooperating with census enumerators. I will discuss the nonresponse followup operation in more detail later.

The good news about the mail response rate is tempered somewhat by our concerns about noncooperation and the potential loss of data. As I explained at the last hearing, every question we ask in the census serves an important purpose and all have a specific federal legislative or judicial mandate or requirement. Very early this year, an advocacy group issued a press release that said: "Real Americans don't answer nosy Census questions. You can strike a blow for privacy, equality, and liberty by refusing to answer every question on the Census form except the one required by the Constitution: How many people live in your home?"

This misreading of the Constitution--which states that the census is to be conducted "in such manner as [Congress] shall by law direct"--ignores the fact that the Nation's founders directed that the census be a tabulation of the population by such characteristics as age, gender, race and household composition. Every census has been more than a simple headcount. Moreover, the advice given is a prescription not only for poor data quality but also for an increased undercount. If people don't cooperate with the census at all or just give us a number, whether when they returned the form by mail or when the enumerator visits, that will not be sufficient. Beyond the number of people at an address, we require some minimal characteristics to complete an enumeration. Otherwise, we have no way to know if we are dealing with real people. In cases where no cooperation is forthcoming, we will have to compensate by attempting to get the data through interviews with other knowledgeable individuals.

We are also concerned about potential loss of data due to opposition to the long form. There was approximately a 12 percentage point difference between the mail response rates for the long form and the short form, double the 1990 rate. We do not have data at this point about item nonresponse rates--that is, for example, how many people who mailed back the long form did not answer specific questions, such as income, disability, education, and so on.

Comments we have received give us reason to be concerned about the long form problem. Let me just cite two of these comments:

> *I have this day read my long form and promptly ripped it in two and burned same. Don't bother sending another as I won't fill it out nor will I pay the $100 fine.*

I am refusing to complete the long form. You can arrest me if you want. But I am not going to complete it!

We are very concerned that refusal to respond fully to the census can pose a serious risk to Census 2000 data. As I previously testified, the Census Bureau would have to determine whether the data are sufficiently reliable to perform the functions expected of them.

Operations a Success Thus Far

I will now summarize some of the activities we have completed and results achieved since the last hearing.

- At the last hearing, I reported on the successful completion of the update/leave operation and delivery of questionnaires in mailout/mailback areas. I will discuss these operations in more detail later.

- Since the last hearing, we have completed or are progressing on schedule with several other major operations. These include:

  --The enumeration of remote areas of Alaska.

  --List/enumerate, which is conducted in remote, sparsely populated areas where it is not efficient to compile a precensus address list.

  --Update/enumerate, which we conducted in communities with special enumeration needs and where most housing units may not have house number and street name addresses. These include selected American Indian Reservations, unincorporated Spanish-speaking communities along the border of Texas and Mexico (*colonias*), and resort areas with high concentrations of seasonably vacant housing units.

  --Service based enumeration, in which we interviewed people at shelters, soup kitchens, mobile food van stops, and targeted outdoor locations.

  --Group quarters, where we count people living in such places as college and university dormitories, hospital and prison wards, migrant farm camps, and nursing homes.

  --The enumeration of land-based and shipboard military personnel and people aboard U.S. flag-bearing merchant vessels.

- In data capture, all operations are on schedule and have very high quality. We have scanned about 70 million questionnaires. Optical character recognition is

working well; it has "read" over 80 percent of the write-ins with over 99 percent accuracy.

- Be Counted sites closed on April 11 and we stopped accepting questionnaires on April 30. In all, we received about 573,000 Be Counted forms out of some 16 million that we distributed. About 465,000 of these were in English, 95,000 Spanish, and the balance in other languages. Questionnaire Assistance Centers closed on April 14; these centers received about 350,000 walk-in visits.

- We have received over 5.8 million calls at our Telephone Questionnaire Assistance centers. TQA will operate until June 8; the number of calls has decreased dramatically and we have reduced staff accordingly. TQA staff took approximately 120,000 census enumerations over the telephone. Except for the first two days of the operation, TQA was able to service nearly all callers.

- We received some 2.3 million requests for foreign language questionnaires as a result of the advance letter and we have sent questionnaires to the requesters. This is an indication that the advance letter worked.

- In all, we received about 66,000 responses through the Internet. We consider this an operational success. It was the first time we had allowed this option and we wanted to see if we could do it. It worked.

At previous hearings, I discussed potential problems that could put the census at risk. They included failure to complete the update/leave operation; problems with our payroll system that would prevent us from paying our employees on a timely basis; widespread problems filling enumerator positions, despite our extensive pool of qualified applicants; problems with the Census 2000 address file that would prevent our employees from being able to fulfill their responsibilities; a major breakdown in the telephone questionnaire assistance operation; breakdowns in data capture systems or in questionnaire delivery; unexpectedly low mail response rates; any event that could undermine faith in the confidentiality of the data, such as a hacker on our Internet site; or a failure to meet our promise to provide the mailback response rate to the public. None of those potential problems has occurred. In fact, census operations have been quite successful.

Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) Operation

Now, we enter the nonresponse followup operation, which is the largest, most complex, and most costly operation in Census 2000. Nonresponse followup raises its own set of potential risks. These would include high turnover rates for enumerators, more outright resistance from respondents that would adversely affect productivity or data quality, a breakdown in our payroll system, or random events such as attacks on enumerators or natural disasters. Turnover has been very low in early census operations, such as update/leave, but nonresponse followup is a more

difficult and frustrating operation. The controversy over the long form, as I have said, gives us some reason to be concerned about resistance and data quality. Our payroll system has worked very well so far, but nonresponse followup is such a big operation that it will be the major test for the system. So we face potential risks during nonresponse followup that could affect accuracy, data quality, and budget. However, as I wrote in my letter to you of April 20, the Census Bureau has completed contingency plans to the extent feasible.

I want to reemphasize that the Census Bureau will fully apply its procedures to account for every address that is on our list to be visited during nonresponse followup. Those procedures are extensive and include making up to 6 attempts--3 by personal visit and 3 by phone (when a phone number is available)--to complete the enumeration of a housing unit. The procedures also include extensive quality assurance procedures and supervisory controls. But they also reflect our experience that the longer we are in the field and the farther we get from Census Day, the more the quality of respondents' answers deteriorates. It is important to keep in mind that we are using a part-time, temporary staff to which we have been able to provide only basic training in survey methods. Extending nonresponse followup beyond the already extensive level of effort we plan would not only increase census costs, it could lead to a reduction in data quality.

To implement nonresponse followup requires massive logistical operations. We began with a universe of about 120 million addresses in mailout/mailback and update/leave areas. As questionnaires were returned to us, we checked them in against the Master Address File to note those that had returned a questionnaire. Nonresponse followup is concerned with those addresses that have not returned a questionnaire, so after April 11, we generated nonresponse followup assignments for each of our 520 local census offices. The local census offices loaded these new files into their databases and printed file assignment directories, address listings, and labels for each questionnaire that will be completed in nonresponse followup. After April 18, we produced yet another set of files for each local census office that contained lists of those addresses for which a questionnaire had been checked in between April 11 and April 18. These are what we call late mail returns. Clerks in each local census office were assigned to cross out by hand the late mail returns on the nonresponse followup address listings.

This massive operation of organizing address listings was just part of the preparatory work the field offices had to do to get ready for nonresponse followup. They had to refine their staffing levels based on the actual mail response rates for small geographic areas. Maps, training kits, and supplies for the enumerators had to be distributed and sometimes redistributed based on the workloads for specific areas, which, as I said, could not be known until we had generated the nonresponse listings.

All of this work was very time-sensitive; it had to be completed in a few days so we could begin training for nonresponse followup on time. While it was going on, we continued to receive mail responses. Some of these made it into the late mail return files, but some did not. Some people who mailed back their census form will be visited in nonresponse followup. We realize that this will irritate some of the public who will wonder why we are bothering them again. All we can

do is explain why this is largely unavoidable given the magnitude of preparing for nonresponse followup, a process that I described earlier. We have to have a cutoff date to begin preparing the assignments and to get all the maps and kits to the right training sites. We do the best we can to strike the late forms that come in from the nonresponse followup universe. Forms are still coming in as we speak. We have also received many forms, such as Be Counted forms, that do not have identification codes on them so they can be checked in quickly. We have to undertake a labor-intensive matching and place coding operation to code them to the right geographic area. So, this sometimes correct complaint that "I already sent the form in" is something our enumerators are trained to deal with. Of course, they will try to complete an enumeration at these housing units anyway, because many people will say they have returned a questionnaire, even when they haven't, and the enumerators will have no way of knowing. Their job is to get a completed questionnaire for every housing unit on their list.

To get ready for nonresponse followup, the Census Bureau conducted an aggressive and highly successful recruiting effort. We have sufficient staff to begin nonresponse followup on schedule in every local census office in the country. We front-loaded our training selections, which means that our goal was to train and give assignments to twice as many people as we needed. That way we will have staff to offset attrition. We have also identified over 50,000 individuals for replacement training so that we can keep replenishing the pool of available workers. We attained this two-to-one redundancy at the vast majority of sites.

We are continuing to recruit in targeted areas even as we speak. This may mean, in the end, that some qualified job applicants may not be hired. We realize they may be disappointed, but we believe we must keep the applicant pool active to assure we have sufficient staff to cover attrition. Thus far, we have identified 2.6 million qualified applicants or 108 percent of our goal. We used more than 5,000 print ads, over 160,000 radio spots, 25,000 bus posters, and over 150 million flyers and brochures. We generated 6 million calls to our toll free jobs line and over 10 million hits on our Internet job site. Our aggressive recruitment strategy worked.

As I said earlier, census takers are in the field now visiting housing units. I urge the public to cooperate with them and provide the information that is being requested. These are not professional survey takers. They are not sales or marketing people. They are part-time workers, our neighbors, who accepted the challenge to do this very difficult job for America. There are several ways to identify a census taker. Census 2000 enumerators will carry a red, white, and blue badge with their name on it; they will carry a black and white tote bag with a census logo on it and census forms; they will offer printed statements about the confidentiality of the data; they will not ask to come into anyone's home; they will give a local census telephone number to verify that they are a census enumerator; and they will not ask for credit card numbers or for a Social Security number.

To place nonresponse followup in context, Appendix 1 graphically depicts each of the major census enumeration operations that precede and follow it.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF INVITATION

Mr. Chairman, I will now answer the specific questions in your letter of invitation for this hearing.

- **The final status of nationwide mail response rates and what those rates mean for the Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) workload, other operations, cost savings, and any potential reallocation of funds.**

The Census Bureau is redirecting resources and personnel from areas with high response rates to areas that will need more attention in the nonresponse followup operation--hiring additional enumerators in these areas and, in a few areas, raising pay rates to meet hiring goals. In addition, we also are examining local outreach and promotion efforts to determine whether there are additional opportunities for targeting advertising and promotion in communities with high nonresponse populations. The General Accounting Office's estimate of a savings of $34 million for each percentage point above 61 percent is based on our planning assumptions about the productivity and turnover rates of census enumerators. As I have explained earlier, turnover and productivity are two of the serious potential risks that we could face in nonresponse followup. We will assess nonresponse followup as it progresses. We will not know the actual cost of nonresponse followup until we have analyzed turnover and productivity; only then will we know if there will be any savings.

- **Operational difficulties in Tampa, Florida, Albany, Georgia, New York, New York, and Chicago, Illinois.**

I have addressed the issues related to Tampa in a letter I sent you earlier this week. I will answer any specific questions you might have about Albany, Georgia, New York, or Chicago.

- **The final status and assessment of update-leave and mail delivery.**

We began the update/leave operation on March 3 and completed it by the end of March, as planned. Census enumerators left questionnaires at approximately 24 million housing units in areas including Puerto Rico. Local census offices conducting update/leave operations had sufficient staff and turnover was low. From March 13 through March 15, the U.S. Postal Service successfully delivered questionnaires in mailout/mailback areas of the country. There were some instances where households received duplicate questionnaires. This occurred because during all the overlapping processes used to build the Master Address File, we wanted to minimize the chance that we would eliminate an address that should be retained. We have procedures in place to remove these duplicate addresses from our files before the final census data are tabulated. There were also some small towns where residents receive their mail at a box at the Post Office and the U.S. Postal Service does not deliver questionnaires to their home. In some of these cases, local census workers distributed questionnaires and some were returned. We will visit the rest of these housing units during nonresponse followup.

- **The assessment of advertising and local partnership efforts for the mail out/mail back phase and plans for advertising and local partnership activities for NRFU.**

As I stated earlier, the efforts of our 100,000 partners and the success of our advertising campaign certainly contributed to our ability to reach a 65 percent mail response rate. Formal evaluations of both the advertising campaign and the partnership program are planned for completion at a future date. We will report these findings when they are available.

The original plan for Census 2000 advertising called for 4 weeks of nonresponse followup advertising, beginning April 17 and running through mid-May. Ads will be seen on television, radio, and in print across the country. A number of new ads were created for this phase to deliver the message about the benefits of the census as well as to inform the public that Census 2000 is not over. The ads tell residents that census takers will be in neighborhoods to assist those who did not fill out their forms, and they encourage residents to check for official census identification badges and to participate in Census 2000.

To insure that the public continues to be aware that the census is not over, the Census Bureau has decided to use savings from cost efficiencies in the early phases of the advertising campaign to extend the original 4 weeks of nonresponse advertising by an additional 4 weeks, reaching into early June. In weeks 5 and 6, ads will be placed in the same markets and outlets as during the first 4 weeks (with the exception of television, which was sold out). Weeks 7 and 8 will include a targeted radio campaign reaching areas of the country with low response rates. Staff are analyzing initial response rate data to determine the target markets for this additional advertising.

We also continue to involve our partners in census efforts. A second component of the "How America Knows What America Needs" program (the first component was the *'90 Plus Five* program) is called *Because You Count*. We have made available through our Internet site various reproducible materials our state, local, tribal, and community partners can use to increase cooperation with census enumerators when they come knocking on doors. We have distributed to each Member of Congress a packet of materials about the *Because You Count* campaign to help you answer constituents' questions during nonresponse followup. We have also distributed to Members public service announcement scripts and videos you may use to produce public service announcements for nonresponse followup.

- **Hard-to-enumerate plans.**

Mr. Marvin Raines, Associate Director for Field Operations, and other Census Bureau staff briefed congressional, Monitoring Board, and General Accounting Office staff on April 25 about the hard-to-enumerate plans. I am attaching for the record a paper copy of the slides (Appendix 2, "Developing LCO Tract Action Plans") that were used in the briefing. Just to summarize this information, using a variety of demographic and operational variables from the 1990 census, Census Bureau staff identified 1990 census tracts that were hard to enumerate, difficult to recruit in, or had some other special situation that would require the application of special enumeration

tools. Because the data in our planning database were nearly 10 years old, it was left to the experience of field staff to make the final determination of what tracts would pose problems and, more importantly, what tools would be needed to overcome them. This information about each of the more than 60,000 tracts is displayed in detailed Tract Action Plans for each of the 12 census regions and in a national summary. These materials were also provided to the staff at the briefing.

The tools available for use included establishing Be Counted and Questionnaire Assistance Center sites, providing bilingual enumerators and/or local facilitators, using special enumeration procedures, such as update/enumerate, and having enumerators work in pairs or larger teams to conduct their work. In all, about 39 percent of all census tracts were designated as hard-to-enumerate, and a subset of these also had either recruiting problems or other special situations. Not all concerns were concentrated in specific census tracts; some were general problems throughout an entire local census office area, and these were also accounted for in "special considerations plans."

- **The number of undeliverable forms and status of forms.**

Let me begin by thanking the Postmaster General and his team at the U.S. Postal Service for the excellent job they did in the delivery of questionnaires in mailout/mailback areas. As we expected, the U.S. Postal Service could not deliver some forms because of incorrect ZIP codes, vacant housing units, lack of residential delivery in the area, or other reasons. These undeliverable-as-addressed packages are usually returned to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center. For selected pre-identified ZIP codes, the U.S. Postal Service, at our request, held the packages for pick up by the local census offices. The local census offices attempted to redistribute the packages to individual households for the pre-identified ZIP codes. Out of about 9 million undeliverable forms in all, the local census offices completed redistribution of about 1.6 million forms. Targeted ZIP codes were selected based on the projected numbers of undeliverable forms in the ZIP codes. The valid addresses for the undeliverable forms that were not delivered by the local census offices will be included in nonresponse followup; some of the undeliverable forms were for addresses that were determined to be invalid and were deleted from the master file.

- **The status of LCO <u>hiring</u> (not recruiting) for NRFU as of May 1, 2000.**

As of May 2, over 360,000 enumerators had begun work on nonresponse followup.

- **The reported computer problem which resulted in the omission of surnames information for NRFU operations.**

I notified the Congress of this problem on April 18 as soon as I had adequate information to describe it accurately. When nonresponse followup materials were delivered to the local census offices, Census Bureau staff discovered computer programming problems that resulted in the

omission of surnames for responding households at those selected addresses for which we had intended to include surnames. These surnames are an important tool that enumerators can use in cases where they encounter delivery problems in multiunit structures, such as apartment buildings, as well as in trailer parks. These circumstances can result in mail delivery in a pattern inconsistent with the Master Address File. If this has occurred and respondents have provided surname information, this information can assist enumerators in resolving discrepancies.

The Census Bureau produced a supplementary file of the surnames and printed supplemental listings so that enumerators have all the information they need to do their job. While this solution mitigated the problem, the listings will be slightly more cumbersome for the census enumerators to use. This may negatively impact their efficiency in some cases. Direct costs incurred as a result of this error are associated with the extra paper used to print the supplementary files and overtime pay for employees in a few cases. The Census Bureau estimates that the total cost will be between $600,000 and $700,000.

The Census Bureau has expanded efforts to examine all aspects of the procedures for evaluating systems and operations. However, this review was not complete prior to the discovery of the surname problem. Steps are being taken to expand and effectively target quality review procedures to ensure that problems are kept to a minimum. However, while the Census Bureau's goal is to be error-free in all operations, there are still going to be problems in an operation this large that get through even the most stringent review procedures.

All Census 2000 operations are integrated and based on computer programing to some degree. It merits emphasis that the computer program used to produce the nonresponse followup materials is but one of 2,500 computer programs that are being implemented in connection with Census 2000. The successful, timely completion of many Census 2000 operations that I mentioned earlier is evidence that systems are functioning as expected. We are continuing to closely monitor all Census 2000 operations, and we will keep you informed of any significant difficulties we face in the months ahead.

- **Census Bureau surveys requiring a Social Security number and reports of current Social Security fraud.**

There have been a number of news reports about persons illegally pretending to be Census 2000 enumerators so that they can obtain personal information from individuals, such as credit card numbers, other financial information, or Social Security numbers. The Census Bureau never requires a Social Security number, and I will explain this in more detail later. To help avoid any confusion on the part of the public, we are emphasizing the ways that individuals can know if the person who comes to their door is really a census enumerator. I described those ways earlier, but let me reiterate them. Census 2000 enumerators will carry a red, white, and blue badge with their name on it; they will carry a black and white tote bag with a census logo on it and census forms; they will offer printed statements about the confidentiality of the data; they will not ask to come

into anyone's home; they will give a local census telephone number to verify that they are a census enumerator; and they will not ask for credit card numbers or Social Security numbers.

The U.S. Census Bureau is implementing a series of experiments during Census 2000 to measure the effectiveness of new techniques, methodologies, and/or technologies in order to form recommendations for subsequent testing and possible innovations in the design of the next decennial census. One of these experiments is investigating how the public responds to requests for Social Security numbers on census questionnaires. During this experiment, approximately 20,000 households have received a special census form and a letter asking them to voluntarily provide their Social Security number. It is important to stress that this is being done in the mailout/mailback phase of the census, that provision of the Social Security numbers is voluntary, and that no households are being asked to provide their Social Security number as part of the Census 2000 nonresponse follow-up operation.

In a very few instances, current survey enumerators may ask for Social Security numbers, on a voluntary basis, as part of ongoing surveys, not as part of Census 2000 followup. The Census Bureau conducts a number of household surveys, many on a reimbursable basis with other government agencies, 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 only for statistical purposes. In addition to Title 13 requirements, the Privacy Act (Section 552a of Title 5) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (Chapter 35 of Title 44) also require the Census Bureau to state the purposes of the data being collected and the fact that these surveys are voluntary. This is accomplished by sending each sample household an introductory letter prior to our interview by telephone or personal visit. Respondents in the following ongoing surveys are asked to provide the Social Security numbers on a voluntary basis:

- Current Population Survey (CPS)—50,000 households
- Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)—36,000 households
- Survey of Program Dynamics (SPD)—20,000 households

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 us to combine survey responses with their corresponding administrative data for program evaluation and enhancement. As the Privacy Act requires, respondents are told that the Social Security number is being collected so that information from other agencies may be combined with their survey responses.

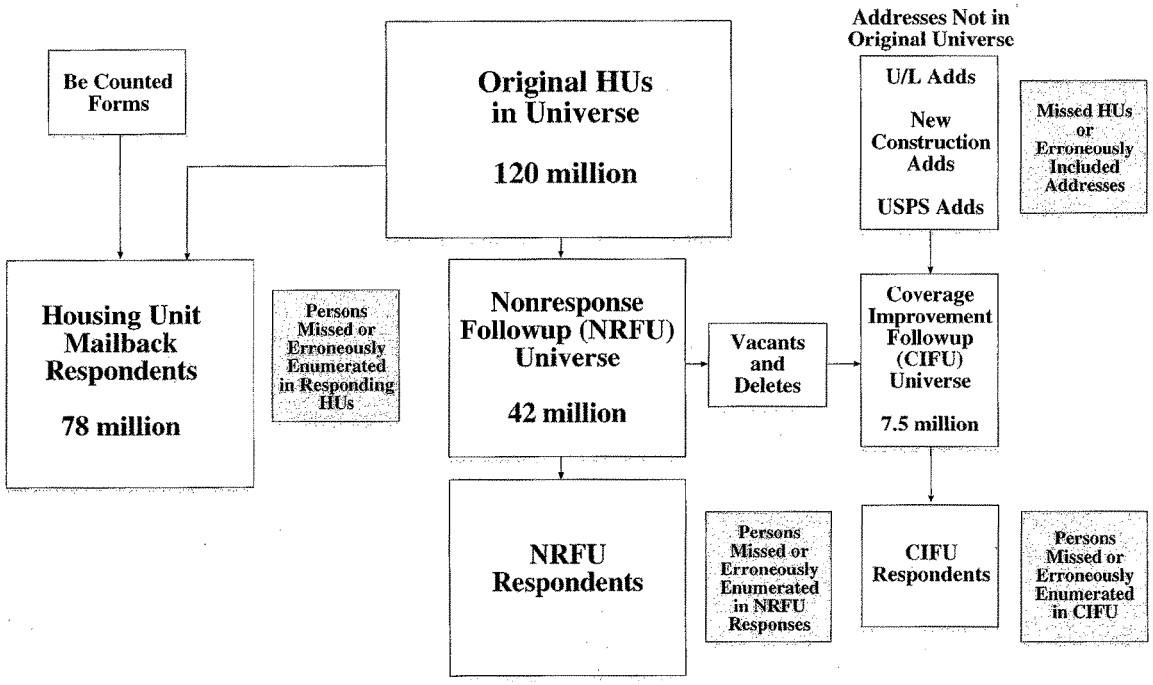
The primary use of Social Security numbers in these surveys is in evaluating the accuracy of income and program participation data that we collect in these surveys. The Social Security numbers have enabled us to evaluate how well our surveys measure wage and salary income, pensions, and interest income. Since these measures are used in calculating the official poverty rate, it is important that we understand any errors or shortfalls in survey reporting that we may be

able to correct. Another key use of Social Security numbers is to augment information collected in the survey, by adding historical information or data collected in a different context. This additional information enriches 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 the individual records are protected from unauthorized use just as the survey responses are protected. Only sworn Census Bureau employees can see data that could identify an individual.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my testimony. I will answer any questions you may have.

Major Census 2000 Enumeration Operations



APPENDIX 2

Developing LCO Tract Action Plans

United States Census 2000

Marvin D. Raines

04/28/2000

An Introductory Quote

- "In preparing for battle I have always found that ***plans are useless***, but ***planning is indispensable***."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, World War II

To Target and Quantify

- Hard To Recruit Tracts
- Hard to Enumerate Tracts
- Special Situation Tracts

Constructing the Plans

- Action Plans Origins
- Regional Census Center Staff (RCC)
- Local Census Office Staff (LCO)
- Headquarters Staff (HQ)

1990 Planning Database

- Hard to Count Areas
- Low Mail Response Areas
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers Areas
- Be Counted Sites Areas
- Outreach & Promotion Areas
- Recruitment & Other Areas

RCC & LCO Input

- Regional Director
- Assistant Regional Census Mgrs.
- Area Managers
- Partnership Specialists
- Regional Geographers
- Regional Recruiters
- Regional Technicians
- Local Census Office Management

Action Plan Categories

- Hard to Enumerate
- Hard to Recruit
- Special Situations

Mitigation Tools

- Pair/Team Enumeration
- Blitz Enumeration
- Bilingual Enumerators
- Guides & Local Facilitators
- Be Counted Form Sites
- Questionnaire Assistance Centers

Mitigation Tools (Cont'd)

- Urban & Rural Update/Enumerate Enumeration
- Urban Update/Leave Enumeration
- Other Locally Developed Strategies

Hard to Recruit Plans

- Language Skills
- Multicultural Requirements
- High Turnover Expectations
- Indigenous Staffing Requirements
- Difficult Economic Conditions

Special Situation Plans

- Migrant Workers
- Seasonal Populations
- Militia compounds
- Gated Communities
- High Crime Areas
- High Growth Areas
- Access Problems

Action Plan Worksheet

- Each tract evaluated from 1990 Planning Database for
  - Hard to Count Score > 70
  - Non Response Rate > 35%
- Each tract rated by RCC for current status
  - Hard to Enumerate
  - Hard to Recruit
  - Special Situations

Action Plans Structure

- Worksheet for each LCO
- A line for each Census Tract

United States Census 2000

Print | Lock Titles | Clear Titles

LCO	State	County	Census Tract	Enumeration Challenges & Strategies - By Tract: Not Hard to Count	HTC: HTC Score >79	NR: 90 NonResponse > 35%	Hard to Enumerate	Hard to Enumerate Strategies: Pair/Team Enumeration	Blitz Enumeration	Bilingual Enumerators	Guides or Local Facilitators	Be Counted Form Sites	Quest. Assist. Centers	Update/Enumerate	Urban Update/Leave	Other Strategies	Hard to Recruit	Special Situations	Local Census Office: Hard to Recruit Strategies / Special Situations / Etc.
	LCO Totals		0	A	B	C	D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	E	F	G
LCO	St	Co	Tr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Local LCO

1-Briefly Describe Hard to Recruit Strateg(ies) and/or Special Situation(s) below in Column G, if Column E and/or Column F is marked with an "X".
2-Also, enter any comments on HTC, NR, or HTE tracts in this column.
3-Use Copy&Paste for repetitive descriptions.

Census Tract

- A Census Tract consists of one or more blocks
- 120 tracts in average LCO
- Over 60,000 Census Tracts in the 50 states & Puerto Rico
- A Plan for Every Census Tract – Tract Action Plan

HTR & Special Situations

es - By | LCO Name

Other Strategies	Hard to Recruit	Special Situations	Hard to Recruit Strategies / Special Situations / Etc.
			1-Briefly Describe Hard to Recruit Strateg(ies) and/or Special Situation(s in Column G, if Column E and/or Column F is marked with an "X". 2-Also, enter any comments on HTC, NR, or HTE tracts in this column. 3-Use Copy&Paste for repetitive descriptions.
9	E	F	G
3	9	12	32
X			difficult terrain, need 4 wheel drive vehicle
	X		PostCards, Flyers, Local Media
		X	Large Military Base

Write In entries for

- Other Strategies
- Hard to Recruit
- Special Situation

The Summary Line

United States Census 2000

Print | Lock Titles | Clear Titles

				Enumeration Challenges & Strategies - By Tract														
					HTC	NR	Hard to Enumerate Strategies											
LCO	State	County	Census Tract	Not Hard to Count	HTC Score >70	90 NonResponse > 35%	Hard to Enumerate	Pair/Team Enumeration	Blitz Enumeration	Bilingual Enumerators	Guides or Local Facilitators	Be Counted Form Sites	Quest. Assist. Centers	Update/Enumerate	Urban Update/Leave	Other Strategies	Hard to Recruit	Special Situations
2199	LCO Totals		105	A	B	C	D	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	E	F
LCO	ST	CO	TR	72	9	25	31	2	1	12	0	12	13	0	0	3	9	12

- The summary line, a count of the entries in each column and is linked to the RCC Summary Plan

RCC Summary Plans

- Each LCO summary line is linked to one column on the RCC summary plans

Boston RCC

Challenges & Strategies - Census Tract Counts by Local Census Office (LCO)

LCO Link

Print | Lock Titles | Clear Titles

	Code	10		ELCO			ELCO		ELCO			ELCO		ELCO			
		RCC Totals from LCOs Recv'd	New Britain CT	Hartford CT	New Haven CT	Norwich CT	Stamford CT	Waterbury CT	Boston North MA	Boston South MA	Yarmouth MA	Lowell MA	Cambridge MA	New Bedford MA	Beverly MA	Pittsfield MA	Randolph MA
Local Census Offices		48	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127
Total Census Tracts		5,799	178	93	83	152	82	150	77	76	58	98	69	137	149	49	146
Not Hard to Count																	
HTC Score > 70																	
90 NonResp > 35%																	
Hard to Enumerate																	
Hard to Recruit																	
Special Situations																	

RCC Summary Columns

- The RCC Totals column is cumulative for all LCOs
- Several cumulative lines are added to the RCC Summary

Boston RCC

United States Census 2000

Challenges& Strategies- Census Tract Counts by Local Census Office (LCO

LCO List

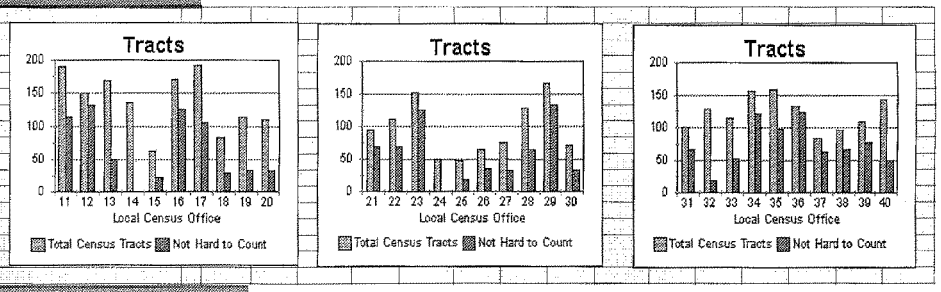
Print | Lock Titles | Clear Titles

	Code	RCC Totals from LCOs Recv'd	New Britain CT	Hartford CT
				ELCO
Local Census Office		48	2112	2113
Total Census Tract		5,799	178	93
Not Hard to Coun				
HTC Score > 7(				
90 NonResp > 35%				
Hard to Enumerat				
Hard to Recrui				
Special Situation:				
Hard to Count B,C,&				
Combined Tools (1-				
HTR+SpecialSit				
Not Hard to Coun	A			
HTC Score >70	B			
90 NonResponse > 35%	C			
Hard to Enumerate	D			
Pair/Team Enumeratio	1			
Blitz Enumeratio	2			
Bilingual Enumerators	3			
Guides or Local Facilitators	4			
Be Counted Form Site	5			
Questionnaire Assistance Center	6			
Update/Enumerate	7			
Urban Update/Leave	8			
Other Strategies	9			
Hard to Recruit	E			
Special Situations	F			
HTR & SpecSits Plans	G			

04/28/2000

RCC Summary Charts

- The RCC Summary plans have charts designed to facilitate comparison of the LCO plans



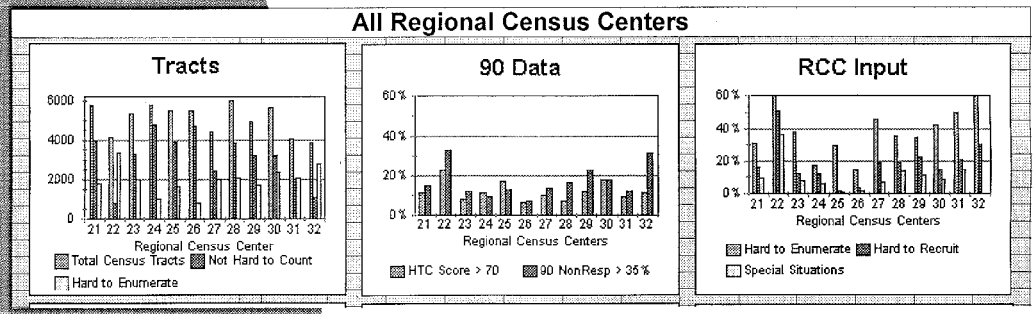
National Summary Plan

- Each RCC summary column is linked to one column on the National Summary
- All RCCs combined

Challenges & Strategies - RCC Census Tract Counts	Code	All Regional Census Centers												
		RCC Totals from LCOs Recv'd	BOSTON	NEW YORK	PHILADELPHIA	DETROIT	CHICAGO	KANSAS CITY	SEATTLE	CHARLOTTE	ATLANTA	DALLAS	DENVER	LOS ANGELES
Local Census Offices		520	48	39	42	42	45	36	38	50	55	46	38	41
Total Census Tracts		61,282	5,799	4,182	5,374	5,842	5,555	5,532	4,423	6,023	4,929	5,643	4,127	3,853
Not Hard to Count														
HTC Score > 70														
90 NonResp > 35%														
Hard to Enumerate														
Hard to Recruit														
Special Situations														

National Summary Charts

- The National Summary Plans also have charts designed to facilitate comparison of the RCC plans



LCO Qualitative Plans

- For challenging situations not concentrated in single tracts
- One Column for each LCO

Special Considerations of Local Census Offices	9							ELCO				ELCO				
Kansas City Region	RCC Totals	Ft. Smith AR	Jonesboro AR	Little Rock AR	Pine Bluff AR	Ames IA	Cedar Rapids IA	Des Moines IA	Sioux City IA	Waterloo IA	Hays KS	Kansas City KS (Parent)	Topeka KS	Wichita KS	Coon Rapids MN	Duluth MN
Local Census Offices	36	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625
Total of Special Considerations		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Migrant Workers																
Seasonal Workers																
Gated/High Security																
Militia Compounds																
Colonias																

Print

Lock Titles

Clear Titles

Special Characteristics

High Grow
Previous Operations Had Di
No Mail Delivery in Mailout/Mailbac
High Percentage of Single Person Hous
Access Problems (Bad Roads, Difficult Terrai
Female Householder with Related (
Public Assistance Hous
Linguistic Isolat
Persons Below Po
Rente
Low Mail Return R
Significant Retirement Popu
Big Rural Area for List/Enumerate & Rural Upc
Transient & Homeless Popu
Minority Grov
High Population De
High Crin
High Percentage of Minority Popu
Large University Student Pop
Trailer Parks, Mobile Home

- These plans are for general difficulties in the office as a whole.
- The summary column for each RCC is linked to a National Summary for Qualitative Plans

Linking of the Plans

- The LCO Tract Action Plans are linked to the RCC Summary Plans
- The RCC Summary Plans are linked to the National Summary
- Updates to LCO plans load thru the links in the RCC Summary and National Summary plans
- The Qualitative Plans are also linked

Reality Check

- Virginia, Alexandria LCO
- Tract 1038 - 2K Rate 37.4%
- Hard to Count from 90 Data

United States Census 2000

Print | Lock Titles | Clear Titles

LCO	State	County	Census Tract	Enumeration Challenges & Strategie									
					HTC	NR	Hard to Enumerate Strate						
				Not Hard to Count	HTC Score >70	90 NonResponse > 35%	Hard to Enumerate	Pair/Team Enumeration	Blitz Enumeration	Bilingual Enumerators	Guides or Local Facilitators	Be Counted Form Sites	Quest. Assist. Centers
2844	51	013	1037	X									
2844	51	013	1038		X	X	X			X		X	X
2844	51	059	4151	X									

Plans from LCO & RCC

- Virginia, Charlottesville LCO
  - Tract 0006 – 2K Rate 39.3
  - HTE from LCO/RCC Review

United States Census 2000

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				Enumeration Challenges & Strategie									
					HTC	NR	Hard to Enumerate Strate						
LCO	State	County	Census Tract	Not Hard to Count	HTC Score >70	90 NonResponse > 35%	Hard to Enumerate	Pair/Team Enumeration	Blitz Enumeration	Bilingual Enumerators	Guides or Local Facilitators	Be Counted Form Sites	Quest. Assist. Centers
2846	51	680	000598				X	x	x				
2846	51	680	0006				X	x	x				
2846	51	680	0007	X									

Plans in Adjacent Tracts

- Virginia, Virginia Beach LCO
- Tract 0047 - 2K Rate 35.4
- Adjacent Tracts Have Tools

United States Census 2000

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				Enumeration Challenges & Strateg									
					HTC	NR	Hard to Enumerate Strateg						
LCO	State	County	Census Tract	Not Hard to Count	HTC Score >70	90 NonResponse > 35%	Hard to Enumerate	Pair/Team Enumeration	Blitz Enumeration	Bilingual Enumerators	Guides or Local Facilitators	Be Counted Form Sites	Quest. Assist. Centers
2854	51	710	0046			x	X		x				
2854	51	710	0047	X									
2854	51	710	0048			x	X		x				

A Parting Quote

- "In preparing for Census 2000, I have found that *plans are useless*, but *planning is indispensable*.

Marvin D. Raines
Associate Director for Field Operations
US Bureau of the Census

STATEMENTS OF KENNETH PREWITT, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS; JOHN H. THOMPSON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR DECENNIAL CENSUS; AND MARVIN D. RAINES, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR FIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. PREWITT. If I may read a very quick opening statement and take an extra minute or two to address some of the questions that you raised in your opening statement.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Maloney, members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to be here today to provide an update on the status of the census activities. Last week I had the honor to report the good news about the state of civic responsibility in our country. The country has stopped a 30-year decline in census cooperation, slightly reversed the decline, and this is a serious achievement.

In reaching the 66 percent mail back response rate, the public outperformed expectations. More than 100,000 census partners deserve credit. Congratulations are owed to thousands of mayors, commissioners, teachers, community advocates, houses of worship and other civic business leaders. We thank our partner agencies for the excellent advertising campaign and to you, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Maloney, other Members of Congress, who encouraged response to the census. Our partners and the public have treated the census as a serious civic event intended by the founders.

The good news about the mail response rate is tempered by our concerns about long form noncooperation and potential loss of data. As I explained at the last hearing, every question we asked in the census serves an important purpose and all have a specific Federal or judicial mandate or requirement. Very early this year an advocacy group issued a press release that said as follows: "real Americans don't answer nosy census questions. You can strike a blow for privacy, equality and liberty by refusing to answer every question on the census form except the one required by the Constitution: How many people live in your home?" This is a misreading of the Constitution, which states that the census is to be conducted "in such manner as [Congress] shall by law direct." The mistaken reading of the Constitution ignores the fact that the Nation's founders and its first Congress directed the tabulation of the population by such characteristics as age, gender, race and household composition. Every census has been more than a simple head count. Moreover, the misguided advice on how to respond to the census is a prescription not only for poor data quality but for increased undercount.

If people do not cooperate with the census at all, or just give us a number of persons in the household, whether when they return the form by mail or when the enumerator visits, that will not be sufficient. Beyond the number of people at an address, we require some minimal characteristics to complete an enumeration. Otherwise we have no way to know whether we are dealing with real people. In cases where no cooperation is forthcoming, we will have to attempt to get the data through interviews with other knowledgeable individuals.

We are also concerned about potential loss of data due to opposition to the long form. There was approximately a 12 percentage point difference between the mail response rates for the long form and short form, double the 1990 rate. We do not have data at this

point about item nonresponse rates. That is, for example, how many people who mailed back the long form did not answer specific questions, such as income, disability, education and so on. Comments we have received give us reason to be concerned about the long form problem.

Let me cite just two of these comments. "I have this day read my long form and promptly ripped it in two and burned same. Don't bother sending another as I won't fill it out nor will I pay the $100 fine."

Second, "I am refusing to complete the long form. You can arrest me if you want, but I am not going to complete it." Obviously this is a very small sample from a large number. We are very concerned that refusal to respond fully to the census can pose a serious risk to census 2000 data. As I previously testified, the Census Bureau would have to determine whether the data are sufficiently reliable to perform the functions expected of them.

Let me turn to an operational update. In each of the hearings that have tracked census operations, I have identified problems that could put the census at risk in the period following the hearing. Thus in the last hearing I listed as potential problems the failure to complete the update leave operation, problems with our payroll system, widespread problems filling our enumerator positions, problems with the address file, breakdown of our telephone questionnaire assistance operation, breakdown of data capture, questionnaire delivery and unexpectedly low mail response rates or any event such as a hacker on our Internet site. None of those potential problems has occurred. Every major census operation scheduled for completion is either now complete or in its final stages. This includes update leave, remote Alaska, service based enumeration, military enumeration, foreign language questionnaires and others. And I can provide details if you wish.

Now we, of course, enter the nonresponse followup operation, which is the largest, most complex and most costly operation of census 2000. It raises its own set of potential risks, and I take this hearing as an opportunity to put those on the record. These would include high turnover rates for enumerators, more outright resistance from respondents that could affect productivity or data quality, a breakdown in our payroll system or random events such as attacks on enumerators or natural disasters. Turnover has been very low in early census operations such as update/leave, but nonresponse followup is a more difficult and frustrating operation. The controversy over the long form, as I have said, gives us some reason to be concerned about resistance and data quality. Our payroll system has worked very well so far, but nonresponse followup is such a big operation that it will be a major test for that system. So, we face potential risks during nonresponse followup that could affect accuracy, data quality and budget.

I want to emphasize that the Census Bureau will fully apply its procedures to account for every address that is on our list to be visited during nonresponse followup. These procedures are extensive and include making up to six attempts, three by personal visit and three by phone when a phone number is available, to complete the enumeration of a household. These procedures also include extensive quality assurance procedures and supervisory controls but

they also reflect our experience that the longer we are in the field and the farther we get from census day the more the quality of respondent's answer deteriorates.

It is important to keep in mind that we are using a part-time temporary staff to which we have been able to provide only basic training in survey methods. Extending nonresponse followup beyond the already extensive level of effort we plan would not only increase census cost but it could lead to a reduction in data quality. Mr. Chairman, we appreciate your letter with respect to directing the resources obviously to the hard to enumerate areas, and that is what we are doing. I have not directly responded to you on a framework reprogramming. It is not a framework issue at this stage, but certainly we are putting the money in those areas. We have raised enumerator pay rates in about 10 percent of our LCOs, including Tampa.

The preparation for and launching of nonresponse followup is very time sensitive and it had to be completed in a few days so we could begin training on time. While it was going on, we continued to receive mail responses. Some of those made it into our late mail return files, but some did not. Some people who have mailed back their form will be visited in nonresponse followup. We realize this will irritate some members of the public who will wonder why we are bothering them again. There had to be a cutoff date to begin preparing the assignments and to get all of the maps and kits to the right training sites. We do the best we can to strike the late forms that come in to the nonresponse followup universe, but clearly cannot do so for all late returns. Forms are still coming in. We have also received be counted forms that do not have identification codes. These require a labor intensive matching and place coding operation to code them to the right geographic area. So this sometimes correct complaint that I have already sent the form in is something our enumerators are trained to deal with. Of course they will try to complete an enumeration at these housing units anyway because many will say that they have returned a questionnaire even when they haven't.

We have sufficient staff to begin nonresponse followup on schedule in every census office in the country. We have frontloaded our training selections, which means that our goal is to train and give assignments to twice as many people as we needed. That way, we will have staff to offset attrition. We have identified over 50,000 individuals for replacement training so we can keep replenishing the pool of available workers. We have retained this 2 to 1 redundancy at the vast majority of sites. Across the national system, we are at 3 to 1 redundancy. We have 3 times the number of enumerators already hired. So that simply means we have more people out there, and we will have the opportunity to accelerate the completion in as many LCOs as possible.

Nevertheless we continue to recruit in targeted areas even as we speak. This may mean in the end that some qualified job applicants may not be hired. We realize they will be disappointed, but we believe we must keep the applicant pool active to assure we have sufficient staff to cover attrition. Thus far, we have identified 2.6 million qualified applicants or 108 percent of our goal.

To place nonresponse followup in context, appendix 1 graphically depicts each of the major census enumeration operations that precede and follow it. On these operational issues, I will take your questions.

May I ask for a few moments to address the question that you raised about the politicization of the conversation about long and short form. Let me first bring to your attention what—the second of your graphs, it was the census report that you referred to and just interpret that so you will see what that means.

What that ESOC report of April 18 reported was that based on our nonresponse followup workload, the fact that we received at that time a more than 4 percent increase over our expected mail back response rate, meant that we were now convinced that completing nonresponse followup on schedule was not at risk. That is all that meant. We didn't resolve any issue about the long and short form differential. It meant in terms of our overall response, it was above the level that we needed to set. It says nothing about data quality and completeness of the long form data. We may well have a data quality problem but we simply don't know that yet.

So it is disingenuous to say that we have resolved the problem. We don't know. We have resolved the problem of nonresponse followup as best as we can at this stage.

Let me turn to the other concerns that you expressed and I appreciate the seriousness of them and I would like to take a moment to address them. First, I have to say that perhaps it is an accident or perhaps it is not an accident, that nothing in your prepared comments that you just read from quote me as calling into question the leadership of the Republican Party. There is no quote available to have put into these comments because my comments have never addressed the role of the Republican leadership; and, therefore, I have to express some concern that you have chosen to interpret my public comments as chastising or otherwise criticizing the Republican leadership. If I have, I ask you for that quote, whether it was in a press conference or report or testimony. I don't believe such a quote exists. There may have been newspaper articles that have implied that, but that is not what I have said. Because I don't believe that I have said that, sir.

I want to say what I have said publicly. What I have said is that national public voices, which certainly includes some of the leading members who have control over the airwaves, talk show hosts, 60 Minutes, have undermined, as far as I am concerned, the seriousness of the census and they did so during a key period, and whether that is the third or fourth week of the census is not the moment I was addressing. I was addressing the moment that this conversation began to occur publicly.

I have also said, and here I have referenced national political leaders, not just public voices, I have said that at a key moment in the census, approximately March 27 to April 2 or 3, we had the full attention of the American people, the full attention of the American people on the census. This is a remarkable accomplishment. All of our information on exposure and awareness suggest that 97, 98, 99 percent of the American people were aware of the census. I believe that was a moment when we could have had an important conversation with the American public about the fact

that democracy has to do with rights and responsibilities as well as benefits. I believe we missed that opportunity. I believe in that key week that what could have happened—we could have said look, the census is part of the responsibility of belonging to this country. And that was not a good moment to talk about the census as a pick-and-choose opportunity. If you don't like it, don't worry about fully cooperating. That was not a good moment for those voices to be heard.

My concern and what I expressed in public shortly after that was out of the disappointment of a bipartisan passed Senate resolution on the floor which subsequently was removed in committee, and I appreciate the efforts that went into removing that from the committee, but the floor nevertheless in a bipartisan vote said, well, the census after all could be thought of as a form of harassment, these enumerators knocking on your door, that it is not something that should be mandatory.

The reason that the census is mandatory, it is not a law I passed, it is to signal that it is a serious part of what it means to be part of this country. Here was a bipartisan passed Senate resolution that said, well, no, I guess we don't need it after all. It is not to be mandatory.

So when I said publicly I was disappointed in national political leaders, that was not a partisan statement. This was a very bipartisan statement. So I would have to ask you if you want to say that I have politicized the census, I need to hear from you the exact quote, either in a press conference, before a hearing or in any other public setting where I have blamed any Republican leader, and I don't believe that you will find that quote.

Mr. MILLER. We have several quotes that we will give to you. I don't think maybe you used the word Republican, but you say, "Here is a moment when our national leadership could have explained." The inference is to the Republicans, and when the articles come out in the paper, they come out different than maybe you think that they come out. "A garbled message was sent." "Here is a moment when our national leadership could have explained what serious role this information is in our economy or society. That voice was either silent or it was pandering to talk show hosts." That was before the Census Advisory Committee. When you talk about the InterSurvey, the inference was it was because of the remarks. The remarks were on March 30, and the survey showed long form privacy concerns jumped to 18 percent prior to March 30. So what happened was, when I look at the data, when the forms got in the mail, people received them, and then had concerns about privacy. It was after the forms arrived, that is the 18 percent, and then afterwards there were some comments by Senator Lott and Governor Bush.

But I think you have been repeating—blaming in effect Republicans for pandering to talk show hosts. None of us can control talk show hosts. They get under my skin, too. But there are articles in several papers. Here is one from the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel. "Some Republican leaders view the census as an invasion of privacy and urge Americans not to answer questions that they consider too personal. That pulled the entire response rate down for the country, Prewitt said Wednesday."

Mr. PREWITT. That is an incorrect quote. I did not say that.

Mr. MILLER. That is what is being reported. I think you have already said that if you don't want to fill out a question, at least give us enough information for apportionment purposes. I used the illustration that my neighbor doesn't want to give her phone number and income—fill out the rest. You know I have been advocating for people to complete the forms as best they can, and I know you never accused me of anything—but let me switch to some questions now.

Yesterday the whole world seemed to come under attack from a major computer virus which paralyzed computers. Were census 2000 operations affected in any way? I got some on my e-mail, "I love you" stuff. It was on the national news. I am just curious if it had any impact on the Census Bureau.

Mr. PREWITT. No. We did a lot of work on our computers in headquarters. Somehow we put down a message through all of our computers, an anti-virus protection, and there may have been isolated instances where isolated computers had read that message, but there is certainly nothing of a large scale to report at all.

Mr. MILLER. It has been reported that organizations around the country have had some real problems.

As you know, we have discussed the Tampa office before and you responded in a letter to me this week. I visited my local office in Bradenton, and Mrs. Maloney talked about an article in Boston, there was an article in my local Bradenton newspaper talking about a census worker working on the census in 1950, and it was an interesting human interest story. I had one woman who worked on the 1940 census and it was different back then. They didn't use the mail response certainly in 1940. When did mail come in, 1960?

Mr. PREWITT. 1960 was the first partial mail back.

Mr. MILLER. But in 1950, they were knocking door to door for everyone. It is more anecdotal, but I think my local office in Bradenton is doing a good job. They have some difficult areas to count, too. In Tampa apparently they are having problems. Do you rate local census offices? Is there some type of rating scale to identify those problem ones, an A, B, C, D, F type of scale? I don't want to say that Tampa is in that low category, but if in a local area you have a problem that is real?

How many local census offices would you consider being problem offices in however you want to define a census problem office?

Mr. PREWITT. Fair enough. And I should say quickly what is a problem local office varies from operation to operation. Indeed, in the Bradenton-Tampa area, the mail back response rate was quite strong and yet in other areas we had lower rates than we had hoped. We had an LCO which wasn't doing as well as we hoped in update/leave. So it is not like a single office through all operations is particularly weak. In the Tampa office, as I have written to you, we believe we had a serious management problem. When you have a serious management problem exactly at the recruitment period, that accumulates.

I would say across the country well under 5 percent had the combination of those two things a management problem plus a recruitment problem. The only thing you could do at that point is try to change the management quickly. When we changed the Tampa

management, our rate shot up. We feel very good about the quality of the staff. I think the press coverage in Tampa has been reasonably consistently negative. We believe that we know why that is so. We do not think it is about our operations, it is about some other things. We remain disappointed that the person who has gone to the press so often, who was an employee, and then had to be let go, has not signed the release so we can't explain why he was let go and that puts us at a disadvantage in this press battle.

To your more general question, we look at these data of course every day, our recruitment data, and right now we have about 16 offices, that is as of a day and a half ago, 16 offices which we are particularly concentrating on with respect to our recruitment system.

That 16 by tomorrow could be down to 8 because what happens in some of these cases is that your payroll system is catching up with you. Our data base is primarily our payroll system. We have two offices where we had the very happy occurrence of a large number of people shifted from update/leave and other kinds of operations to enumerators. We were still paying them on the old payroll, so it looked like we didn't have anyone there, but we were fully staffed. It took 2 or 3 days to move those records onto our NRFU payroll system. I would say that the total number of offices right now about which we have any serious concern are in the handful.

Now, tomorrow it may be a different set because we may have a higher attrition rate than we expected. At any time the probability of there being somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 to 15 offices is high.

Mr. MILLER. Is recruitment the main way you tell?

Mr. PREWITT. How many people showed up at the training, etc. Next week it will be attrition rates. If we have higher than expected attrition rates, that will be the thing then.

Mr. MILLER. You made this comment in your opening statement but I think it would be nice if you elaborated. You are hiring more people than you need, and some people are not going to get called even though they may be qualified people. With an operation of this size, communications is not always as ideal as you would like it to be. So it is not always possible to let people know why they are not getting called, could you just elaborate on that?

Mr. PREWITT. Certainly. It has been an issue throughout this entire process.

Mr. MILLER. And Members of Congress are going to get these calls at their offices, too.

Mr. PREWITT. Going back to your opening comment about expecting us to use every tool in our tool box to make sure that we have the highest level of accuracy possible, means for us, we do not want to take any chance of diminishing the recruitment pool until we are certain we don't need someone. The recruitment pool has to be targeted at bilingual people and people with a cultural understanding and people who understand complicated situations in different parts of the country. We have to find the right number of people and we are talking about mail back response rate, and we may be at an LCO where we are going to have to use all six callbacks and

others where we may get people more quickly because it has a high retirement rate, etc.

From our point of view, the most important thing is to retain that recruitment pool until we know we don't need it. We are not calling people and saying we don't think that we are going to need you. Even after nonresponse followup, we have a very large operation called coverage improvement followup, we need a very large field staff to do that task. We are not sure where that task is going to fall. That is our national estimate, but that will be concentrated in certain areas. We want a recruitment pool there.

So all we can do—we would rather suffer the burden of some people who are disappointed that they were not hired than not have enough people to finish the census and that is simply the position we have to take.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

Mrs. Maloney.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, in your opening statement you made reference to a fax which Representative Coburn provided to the press, an illegal act if the Privacy Act applied to Members of Congress, I might add.

Dr. Prewitt, to try and put this incident in perspective, the information inadvertently faxed to the wrong number was not, as I understand it, title 13 material, was it?

Mr. PREWITT. That is correct. We fax no title 13 material.

Mrs. MALONEY. What exactly is title 13 material?

Mr. PREWITT. Material which has a census response, including an address. All of that material is simply handled differently.

Mrs. MALONEY. How is it handled differently?

Mr. PREWITT. It is only handled by people who are sworn fully. No one can have any access to any sort of confidential title 13 material that has not been sworn as a census employee.

When the actual forms come in, they are recorded in our local office by sworn people. They are boxed, put into the highly secure Fed Ex system and they come to our data capture centers, and they are opened by sworn employees in our data capture centers.

Mrs. MALONEY. Do you have any idea how many faxes the Bureau sends out in 1 day from its 520 local offices, 12 regional offices, 4 data capture centers and headquarter offices by the 500,000 people currently on the payroll? Do you have any sense of the proportion?

Mr. PREWITT. It is a very large number. A very large number.

We regret any human error. Human error does occur. In this particular instance the woman who made the call immediately recognized that she had misdialed and tried to immediately track the misdial. When we actually were able to reach the woman, we asked that this material be destroyed immediately, and that was refused by the woman who received it. Instead she chose to share it. We then called the Congressman's office, asked him to destroy the material immediately, and he also suggested that he was not going to do that.

We are regretful that this piece of information got out. Look, I am not trying to defend human error but I am very pleased insofar as errors have occurred—and they will continue to occur—thus far

there has been no title 13 information which has at all moved into any kind of public setting.

Mrs. MALONEY. The Bureau has now had some limited experience with the nonresponse followup. Do you have any reports of hostility, of slammed doors and is any—what is the response like? Is it more hostile than 1990? Have you had any sense of a comparison or is it more friendly? What is the response?

Mr. PREWITT. We are very pleased with the successful launch of nonresponse followup. That is the training programs all occurred on schedule and were fully staffed. Everyone—the number of people that we needed came to our training sessions.

And we are now in the field. We only have 3 days of information, of course, but approximately 8 percent of our non-response followup workload is already completed in the field. Now, that still has to be checked in and so forth. But from the field point of view, they've now finished slightly over 8 percent of the cases. That's as of last night. We're right on schedule with respect to that. We're certainly getting reports of concerns, slammed doors and so forth. It's very anecdotal.

I have no way of knowing whether it's larger or smaller than we got in 1990. The little factoid I learned yesterday is we've had 212 dog bites so far, and one sort of serious bee sting. But I don't have the base of that for 1990, whether that's a higher rate of dog bites than 1990 or not. But we worry about those kinds of things.

We do know in Anchorage, at least I read in the Anchorage press, insofar as we can trust the press on these kinds of things, at least four different enumerators in our update/leave operation were met by people carrying guns and asked them not to come on the property, so they left. But again, that's anecdotal. I don't have a 1990 base to know whether this is higher or lower than 1990.

Mrs. MALONEY. Of the 41 million households in the non-responsive followup of the universe, how many of them are long forms and how many of them are short, do you know?

Mr. PREWITT. I would have to do the arithmetic quickly. It should have been, of course, one out of six exactly, but since the long form differential is 10 percent, if somebody could quickly do that arithmetic for me. The point is—obviously the point is that there are a higher percentage of long form cases than we had anticipated.

Mrs. MALONEY. The same proportion. You stated in your testimony on page 2 that you're concerned about potential loss of data due to opposition to the long form, and you stated further in your testimony that you have no information on item by item non-response, but do you have a sense of which questions would cause the most problem if they weren't answered?

Mr. PREWITT. Well, the most important information we have, Congresswoman Maloney, is the 1990 item non-response pattern. We think that's reasonably predictive of what we might get in 2000, and item non-response in 1990 varied from as little as 1½ percent to—on the income question, I believe the key income question was 14 percent, but I don't have that in front of me. I don't want to give you the wrong number. So it will vary a lot.

We think that should be the most predictive. As I've said in Congressman Rogers' hearing, that's what we'll be examining. I don't—for this kind of work I don't believe—I don't disbelieve in survey

data, but I don't want to rely on survey data. If you actually look at the InterSurvey question, when they asked the respondents which questions do they find to be intrusive, they found a very high percentage of people saying, I think, for example, 22 percent said that they thought the race question was intrusive. On the other hand, in 1990, only 2 percent of the American public did not answer the race question. So I simply don't think that the surveys are likely to be predictive of item non-response. What is most predictive is the 1990 pattern.

Mrs. MALONEY. Regarding the difference in response rates for the long and short forms from the 1990 census and the 1988 and the 1998 dress rehearsals, could you explain and expand on what those response rates were?

Mr. PREWITT. Yes. In the 1990 dress rehearsal, the response rate—the differential response rate across a couple of sites averaged about 6 percent and the non-response—the differential in 1990 was 6 percent. In 2000, the differential response rate between the long and short form was quite a bit higher. It varied between whether it was update/leave in Columbia, SC, and so forth. But it's not inaccurate to say that it would have been close to 12 percent, and of course, 12 percent is the non-response—is the differential in the 2000 pattern thus far.

Mrs. MALONEY. What's your analysis of the roughly 12-point differential in the long and short form response rates, and what impact did it have on your planning for the 2000 census?

Mr. PREWITT. I'm sorry, Congresswoman Maloney. Would you repeat that.

Mrs. MALONEY. There was a differential of roughly 12 percentage points between the long and short form response rates in the 1998 dress rehearsal, and what impact did that have, if any, on your planning for the 2000 census?

Mr. PREWITT. We did not treat the differential in the dress rehearsal as predictive of what we would get in 2000. So we did not focus on that differential as a likely clue as to what would happen in the census environment. We simply—we used the dress rehearsal, of course, to test operations, not to try to predict the behavior of the entire American public because these are only three sites.

Mrs. MALONEY. It was basically an operational run-through.

Mr. PREWITT. And we changed some operations, including, of course, the second mailing based upon our dress rehearsal experience. I might say, if I could, the approximate non-response followup workload was 33 million short-form and 9 million long-form respondents.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. MILLER. On the long form, one thing I congratulate the Bureau for doing—I think it was actually before both of us arrived on the scene—specifically was seeking professional expertise to help design the form, and in reflecting back on the 1990 form compared to this, I commend the Bureau for getting professional surveyor consultants in helping do that. I think that's positive.

Let me ask a question about the long form. The Bureau is using one out of six for the long form. What criteria was used for that? Why were you using one out of six? What is the purpose of that?

Mr. PREWITT. Well, the real question is at what level of geography do you want to be able to provide reasonably reliable estimates? By doing one out of six, we can take our statistical estimates down to a population of less than 20,000. So a community of less than 20,000 or any other kind of group of less than 20,000, that is, how many disabled veterans there are, if that population is as large as 20,000, we would be able to give you, the country, a reliable estimate of its characteristics. At a higher sample, if we did one out of two across the country, we could drive that 20,000 down to 12,000 or—I better get my experts to tell me exactly where. But that's the reason. We thought that was a prudent way to help the country understand the social dynamics, the housing characteristics, population characteristics, and so forth.

[The information referred to follows:]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JUL 06 2000

The Honorable Dan Miller
Chairman, Subcommittee on the Census
Committee on Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During my testimony before your Subcommittee on May 5, 2000, I addressed your question regarding the use of an overall sampling rate of 1-in-6 for the Census 2000 long form. I would like to clarify and expand upon my remarks with a more complete description of how we determined the sampling rate for a given area.

Census 2000 uses two primary types of household questionnaires. The first, called the 100-percent, or "short" form, collects basic information (for example, age, gender, and race) for every person living in the United States. The second, called the sample or "long" form, asks additional questions (for example, income, marital status, housing value, or rent) about the residents of a sample of housing units.

The overall rate of housing units receiving the long form is about 17 percent (1-in-6). However, the sampling rate varies by geographic area. There are four different housing unit sampling rates: 1-in-8, 1-in-6, 1-in-4, and 1-in-2. A particular block's sampling rate is determined by the size of the entity or census tract in which the block is located. Blocks in entities (such as counties, cities, towns, tracts, and school districts) with an estimated occupied housing unit count of fewer than 800 units were sampled at a rate of 1-in-2. Blocks in entities with an estimated occupied housing unit count of at least 800 units, but fewer than 1,200 units, were sampled at a rate of 1-in-4. Blocks in census tracts with an estimated 2,000 or more occupied housing units were sampled at a rate of 1-in-8, although there are some cases where census tracts include entities that were sampled at a higher rate. All remaining blocks were sampled at a rate of 1-in-6. In addition, long form data also were gathered from persons living in group quarters or enumerated at shelters and soup kitchens at a sampling rate of 1-in-6.

In my testimony, I indicated that this sample design would produce data for areas with a population of 20,000. I want to clarify this statement. The design described above will provide long form data with adequate precision for small governmental jurisdictions (for example, those with 800 housing units) and for census tracts.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my comments. Should you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Ms. Robin Bachman, Chief of the Congressional Affairs Office, at (301) 457-2171.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Prewitt

Kenneth Prewitt
Director

cc: The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

Mr. MILLER. This was, I guess, before both of us were actively involved in this. Let me bring up the issue of Representative Coburn. I know it was an accident, and everybody regrets accidents, but my understanding, by the way—is that the information was not given to the press. For title 13 data, I'm glad we have those standards, but I guess there's a different standard for privacy data, which is individual Social Security numbers and things like that, for which you don't have the same level of security concerns for.

Mr. PREWITT. We have a very high level of security concerns, Mr. Chairman, for all of our data. We simply have different ways of processing non-title 13 and title 13 data. We do use—you cannot, as I think Congresswoman Maloney's questions implied, you cannot manage a census without using e-mail, without using faxes, without using various forms of distributing information around to the different actors who need it. And therefore, to say that we would never use the fax system or an e-mail system or administrative records would cripple the census enormously.

So we do handle certain kinds of things differently from how we handle title 13 data. We have an enormously high standard for how we handle title 13 data. That doesn't mean we don't have privacy concerns and security concerns for other privacy data. Indeed, I'm sure that's true in the U.S. Congress as well. But at a certain point, you do have to use the apparatus that's available in the society for communication, and faxes happen to be one of them, and faxes are subjected to the human error of misdialing a number.

Mr. MILLER. Let me ask a question about quality control issues. We had one computer error where the prenotification letters had the extra digit. We had the surname issue problem for certain residential area units. We have confidence that the quality control efforts are doing the right job, and especially as we go into this nonresponse followup. Would you discuss quality control issues and specifically quality control for the enumerators? How do we know, for example, that an enumerator who is assigned to go out and call on these 20 houses doesn't go home and fill out 20 forms and bring them back to you?

I think we need to have assurances as there has been in the past that there are quality control checks, and because we've had some quality control failures, we are going to hopefully avoid these in the future.

Mr. PREWITT. These are quite separate kinds of quality control procedures of course, quality control on our software. I would like to put in context the digit error that has been discussed so much, and we, of course, brought that to your attention immediately. We have now produced operations that rest on about 2,500 different software programs, and I can't promise you that there won't be other errors, but I can tell you that all of the operations to date using about 2,500 different software programs are now completed and on schedule, on budget, and correctly.

And if, in that huge amount, we did have a digit problem with respect to a contractor, it happened, we tried to explain how that happened and so forth. And then the second one that I brought to your attention with respect to the surname which has a very, very tiny operational implication, but nevertheless I wanted you to

know about that, you do have to see that as 1 out of 2,500, and the fact that all the rest of them have functioned as we had hoped for them is, to us, a very good sign.

Now, the second issue that you raised, the issue of quality control assurances with respect to enumerator work, certainly the Census Bureau has been preoccupied throughout its history with fabricated responses by enumerators. So we put in place quality checks, and the work of every enumerator is double-checked, that is, we either send someone back out or we use a phone system to go back into the field and check on a proportion of every enumerator's work on a regular basis. And if we find any enumerators have reported to us a case, we go back out and find out that that was a fraudulently provided case. All of that enumerator's work is redone, all of it and, of course, that enumerator is fired immediately. If you want the actual rate at which we do that checking, Marvin Raines can explain that better than I can. Would you like to hear that?

Mr. MILLER. Yes.

Mr. PREWITT. It's 5 percent of the workload of every enumerator. How frequently are we doing that on a consistant basis? Every workload that comes in from an enumerator, 5 percent is pulled out as a sample and we go back and do a quality check. So that is happening every day.

Mr. MILLER. Let me ask a question about Social Security numbers and clarify what the Bureau's position is because we also want to caution people that there are going to be people out there that are going to fake being census takers. But one of the questions you are not asking——

Mr. PREWITT. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify that, Mr. Chairman, because there are scam artists out there who are trying to get Social Security numbers, bank card numbers, all kinds of numbers calling themselves census employees.

Mr. MILLER. Once again, by the way, describe what identification a Census Bureau employee would have, so when they are out there, they know they are not getting a scam artist.

Mr. PREWITT. Let's do that first and then talk about Social Security. Every enumerator, of course, has a badge. Every enumerator is also carrying what we call a tote bag which has the logo on it, and here is the badge. And every enumerator also has his or her address file book, which is an 8½ by 11, 14—it's bigger than that. Sorry. It's not the kind of thing that would be easy to fabricate and it has their work materials.

Most importantly, every enumerator is expected to have immediately available the phone number of the local office, so a respondent can say, when you knock on the door, you say you're from the Census Bureau. I don't know if you are from the Census Bureau. You say, look, here's the phone number. Go call the local office. Here is my name, here is my ID. And you can double-check. Then you can go and check.

Most importantly, no enumerator should ever ask to come into the home. Most people who are scamming, especially people who are trying to conduct an act of thievery, need to get into the home. And therefore if anyone asks to come into the home, we're telling

the American public that is an alert to you that that is not a census taker. That doesn't mean you can't invite them in.

Of course, enumerators get invited in and get served tea and cookies. That's all very nice. Sometimes it doesn't happen that way, but it does happen on some occasions. But nevertheless, no one should ever ask to go into the home. That's extremely important. Now, there will, nevertheless, be scam artists out there trying to get information from a household of a sort that could be used against them.

With respect to the Social Security issue during the mailout phase approximately 21,000 households got a special letter from me—four different versions of that letter, saying that this is the census, and for various complicated reasons, we're going to be asking your Social Security number, and there are four different treatments in that 21,000, depending upon the experimental design. And we made it quite clear this was voluntary. This was not mandatory.

This was not part of the usual decennial census procedures itself, but we were asking that question as a test for a limited number of households. The reason we did that experiment in the context of the census environment is because we were under strong injunction from the U.S. Congress, and indeed, you referenced it again in your opening comments, to investigate to what extent we could use administrative records more efficiently than we're doing in 2000. The Census Monitoring Board had a full hearing on administrative records. Part of the administrative record system of this country, of course, is Social Security numbers.

So we were doing that as a way to test the privacy concerns, and we'll report, of course, our evaluation of that experiment as soon as that's been completed. That won't be until sometime next year. So in those cases, we actually ask in the census environment for a Social Security number for roughly 21,000 households making reference to the fact that, in addition, we actually ask for the Social Security number in our Survey of Income and Program Participation, our SIPP survey, and that's in order to actually strengthen the survey instrument, and because we are under title 13, we are allowed to cooperate with other agencies and strengthen the data base by sharing reports.

Mr. MILLER. What's the sample size of that?

Mr. PREWITT. Sample size of SIPP is 36,000 households.

Mr. MILLER. Correct me if I'm wrong. None of the non-response enumerators will ask Social Security numbers?

Mr. PREWITT. That's the key part of your question. During nonresponse followup, no enumerator has any reason ever to ask for a Social Security number, because the experimental work we did was only in terms of mail-back response rates. It was never intended to be part of nonresponse followups. You're correct. No enumerator has any reason to ever ask for a Social Security number of anyone in the society.

Mr. MILLER. Let me ask one final question. It's hard to enumerate areas. Does each local census office have a written plan for dealing with the hard-to-count neighborhoods? Everyone is different. You were talking about Mrs. Maloney's district is one of the hardest to count. My hard-to-count areas are the migrant areas

more in the center part of the State, actually even outside of my congressional district. Do local offices have specific plans to address their specific problems?

Mr. PREWITT. You're quite right that a hard-to-count gated community can be just as hard to count as a migrant worker community. And, yes, sir, every LCO does have its hard-to-count strategy. This is part of the record because we put this material as an appendix into my written testimony, and it does indeed take into account those kinds of things, languages spoken, distance the enumerator has to travel, is it very remote, things like gated communities.

Mr. MILLER. Each office would have a little different plan.

Mr. PREWITT. Exactly. There's a whole list of the traits, but they weigh very differently office to office. It's not a cookie cutter operation.

Mr. MILLER. With regards to oversight, we can have access to it when we visit a local office to see what——

Mr. PREWITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MILLER. One comment on the hard-to-count. Would you comment, on what's happening on Indian reservations in particular?

Mr. PREWITT. Let me start, if I can, with remote Alaska because the number is clearest in my mind because I just talked to the people up there who completed that. We are now completed with remote Alaska, and every village in which the local leadership, which is a vast majority of them, cooperated with the census. We completed 100 percent of the count. We're very pleased with that work thus far. That's a part of our American Indian and Native Alaskan populations.

I think with respect to Indian land more generally, overall, the pattern has been very strong, very positive. There are two or three pockets, and I will have to ask Marvin Raines to comment in detail. Two or three pockets where we are still getting some resistance. I think there is one in Montana, as I recall. This is not a general problem. Indeed, the mail-back response rate from some of the Indian areas beat their "plus 5" goal. About as many of those as did across the country. 17 percent of communities across the country met the "plus 5" goals. It's an extraordinary accomplishment by those communities.

Does anyone know offhand the proportion of those who are in areas?

Mr. MILLER. Let us just get that information.

Mr. PREWITT. We'll give it to you.

Mr. MILLER. The American Indians were one of the most undercounted populations we had in the 1990 census.

Mrs. Maloney.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you. On administrative records, Dr. Prewitt, can you use administrative records without Social Security numbers, or do you need Social Security numbers?

Mr. PREWITT. In principle, there certainly are Social Security numbers—excuse me—there are administrative records; for example, school attendance records, perhaps occupancy records from the local government, which would not necessarily require you to use a Social Security number. That would be very uneven across the country.

When we looked at administrative records, one of the things that we found was it is very difficult to implement anything that was standard across the country because different jurisdictions do not keep the same kind of records. Our school attendance records, our housing occupancy records, our housing start records, all kinds of other records are different from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, so it's very difficult to design a census in a way that standardizes quality across the United States. The only things which are standardized across the United States are largely Federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and those programs all do use—I think all of them use Social Security numbers as part of their data record.

I might say, if I could say another word or two on this, Mr. Chairman, you asked what was the Census Bureau's position on Social Security numbers. We have no position. Indeed given the concerns about privacy in this country, we have never recommended, and I don't think we would ever recommend, that this country have a national identification number system. The census is done in Scandinavian countries, for example, based on a national identification number system. My own judgment would be that that would not be a direction that either the U.S. Congress or the Census Bureau should move toward.

Now, there's a very complicated issue, because if we don't have a national identification system and yet we're under pressure to use administrative records in order to keep costs down and improve coverage, what is the nature of the administrative records that we can use which stop short of what the American public could interpret as a national identification number, which is to say, a Social Security number? So it's a very tough question that the Congress will have to discuss as we start planning for 2010.

We did think we had an obligation to the Congress to sort of try to learn what we could in the census environment. It's very difficult to learn some of these things outside of the census environment. That's why we conducted the experiment. It's not a policy position of the Bureau to recommend that we use administrative records in the way that would necessarily incorporate Social Security numbers as part of it.

Mrs. MALONEY. The chairman has repeatedly mentioned that he would like to see administrative records used more but that really basically raises a privacy concern because part of administrative records, the reliable ones, Medicare, Medicaid which you mentioned nationally, all involve a Social Security number which is a privacy concern. So there is a privacy concern directly related to administrative records. Is that what you're saying?

Mr. PREWITT. Yes. Certainly at the national level there would be.

Mrs. MALONEY. I'm glad that Chairman Miller clarified that Congressman Coburn did not give census information to the press, but based on his strong statements on privacy, it would be important, I think, to have the same privacy level for Members of Congress, as other agencies, such as the Census Bureau, and I think something that we could work on in a bipartisan way is a bill that would cover Congress under the Privacy Act and have that go through Congress so that Congress people were held to the same privacy standard, because privacy is very important. That could be something we could work on. I would certainly support it.

All I can say, Dr. Prewitt, is congratulations. I'd like to publicly thank you and all of the professionals and part-time workers, full-time workers in the Census Bureau. You have reversed three decades of decline, and I have no further questions at this point. I just congratulate you and wish you well during this difficult enumeration stage and just really hope that everyone will cooperate with the enumerators and help us get the most accurate count in America. Thank you very much.

Mr. MILLER. In conclusion, let me say thank you. It's satisfying at this stage because of the mail response, which, as you know, is one of the most difficult parts of it. Things are looking good. I'll be looking forward to progress reports as we go through this process. We'll have little bumps along the way, we all know. You're going to have an employee that's not going to be one that's going to live up to the standards of the Bureau, and that's going to be an embarrassment, but we need to prepare for that too.

On behalf of the subcommittee, thank you for the job you're doing and thank you for being here today.

I ask unanimous consent that all Members' and witnesses' written opening statements be included in the record. Without objection, so ordered. In case there are additional questions that Members may have for our witnesses, I ask unanimous consent that the record remain open for 2 weeks for Members to submit questions for the record and that the witnesses submit written answers as soon as practicable. Without objection. So ordered. Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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