OVERSIGHT OF THE 2000 CENSUS: REVIEWING THE LONG AND SHORT FORM QUESTIONNAIRES

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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OVERSIGHT OF THE 2000 CENSUS: REVIEWING THE LONG AND SHORT FORM QUESTIONNAIRES

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1998

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

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:30 p.m., in room 2247, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Dan Miller (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Miller, Davis of Virginia, Snowbarger, Maloney, Davis of Illinois, and Blagojevich.

Staff present: Thomas B. Hofeller, staff director; Thomas W. Brierton, deputy staff director; Jennifer Safavian, chief counsel; Timothy Maney, chief investigator; Kelly Duquin and Erin Scanlon, professional staff members; Michelle Ash, minority counsel; David McMillen, minority professional staff member; and Ellen Rayner, minority chief clerk.

Mr. MILLER. I call the hearing to order.

Good afternoon. This is our third meeting of the Subcommittee on the Census. We have a new member who has joined us today, Mr. Lewis. He is unable to be here right now, but I think he will be joining us later. He was approved this morning at the full committee.

Before each of us makes a brief opening statement, I need to ask unanimous consent that all Members' and witnesses' written statements be included in the record. Without objection, so ordered.

The subject of the hearing today is concerning the questionnaire. In the past we have been talking about issues like to use sampling or not to use sampling. Today we are talking about the questionnaire; in particular, the use of the long form and the short form. The Census Bureau provided us the questionnaire recently, and we have three panels in which to provide the information.

The constitutional reason we have a census is because of the purposes of apportionment and then drawing congressional districts based on that. That is the only constitutional reason; however, the census is used for a lot of other reasons. In fact, large amounts of Federal dollars, $100 billion annually, flow because of census information to education programs, veterans' programs, elderly programs and such. Of course, many State and local governments use it for their planing on new construction and youth programs, and they rely on it; and nongovernmental organizations use it for social

service programs and such. So it has a great deal of use by a wide variety of the people, in addition to the constitutional reasons.

There are two questionnaires, a short form and a long form. The short form has seven questions. The long form has 52 questions. Generally speaking, 1 out of 6 people receive the long form; in rural areas 1 of 2. This may be the last time the long form is used. There has been a proposal to go to the American Community Survey, which we won't be discussing today, but we will at some stage, as a replacement for the long form.

A number of people have expressed concerns about the long form, and the amount of information requested. Some people feel it is intrusive in nature and that it is a form of corporate welfare because it compiles information that private surveys should seek out where there is an additional cost.

Another concern that has been raised about the long form is the impact on response rates. In 1980, the difference in response rates between the long form and short form was 1½ percent. In 1990, it increased to 4½ percent. So by increasing it to 52 questions, it does have an impact on the response rate, which is, of course, very critical because we obviously want the best census possible.

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

Census 2000 Questionnaire

Chairman Miller's opening statement

In March of this year, the Census Bureau provided Members of Congress with the questions that will be included in the Census 2000 Questionnaire. In the spirit of congressional oversight, the Subcommittee on the Census is holding this hearing to discuss the issues involving the 2000 Census long and short form questionnaires. We have brought together professionals from several different fields to air their concerns and share their ideas on the 2000 Census questionnaires. This hearing will not be a hearing on statistical sampling.

There are many end users of Census questionnaire data. For example, the Federal government allocates over $100 billion in Federal funds annually for education programs, veterans' services, services for the elderly, programs for the disabled, just to name a few. Many states and 43,000 local governments use Census data for planning and allocating funds for, new school construction, youth programs, highway safety and public transportation systems, and rural development programs. In addition to the Federal government and state and local governments, many nongovernmental organizations use census data for developing social service programs, community action projects, and child care center locations.

There are two types of Census questionnaires - the long form and the short form. The short form questionnaire consists of 7 questions. There are 6 population questions and 1 housing question, that 5 out of 6 households across the nation will receive. The long form questionnaire contains 52 questions. This questionnaire includes all of the short form questions, plus 26 population questions, and 20 housing questions that will be sent to 1 out of 6 households across the nation. In rural areas, 1 in 2 households will receive the long form questionnaire.

The 2000 Census may be the last time the Bureau uses the long form questionnaire. One of the proposals on the table to replace the long form questionnaire is the American Community Survey. The American Community Survey (ACS) was designed to provide annual updated estimates of the 2000 Census long form items beginning with the year 2003 data. The ACS is conducted by the Census Bureau. Household addresses are selected at random from a national residential address listing, and individuals are required by law to

participate. The American Community Survey is a monthly household survey. This approach has been constructed to provide accurate and up to date profiles of America's communities every year, not just every decennial census.

The Decennial Census provides more than just data for congressional reapportionment and allocation of federal funds. Proponents of the long form questionnaire data point out that many federal agencies and private businesses rely on the additional demographic data that the long form provides.

Some opponents of the long form questionnaire feel that the information that the Census Bureau solicits on the long form questionnaire is intrusive in nature and could be compiled through other private paid surveys. Some critics have commented that the long form questionnaire is more corporate welfare for big business. Other critics of the long form census questionnaire object to the increased costs involved.

The Subcommittee has heard several concerns about the Census 2000 long form questionnaire. The first concern deals with mail-back response rates. The long form questionnaire consists of 52 questions dealing with varied household information, that the Bureau purports to take the average person 38 minutes to complete. There are 21 subjects in the long form questionnaire that are mandated by federal law. There are 18 subjects in the long form questionnaire that are the only historical source of this information, but are not mandated by any laws.

Traditionally, the long form questionnaire has had a slightly lower mail-back response rate than the short form questionnaire. The short form questionnaire takes an estimated 10 minutes for the average household to fill out. In 1980 the difference between the response rates for the long form and short form was 1.5%. In 1990 this figure has jumped to a 4.5% difference.

An effective questionnaire, along with an accurate and complete list of households to which the questionnaires will be mailed, are the most important components of a successful 2000 Census. The Subcommittee also welcomes additional comments and concerns from members on this issue and looks forward to revisiting this issue again soon.

Mr. MILLER. So before we get into the first witness, which is Congressman Canady, I will now ask if Congresswoman Maloney has an opening statement.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for calling this hearing.

The data from the decennial census is vitally important to our Nation. Conducting the census every 10 years is the largest peacetime mobilization undertaken by the Federal Government, as it should be, because conducting an accurate census is a national security and economic interest second to none.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the distribution of close to $200 billion a year in Federal moneys depends on the census data. Clearly, that is reason enough to support the use of the long form by the Census Bureau, but not the only reason. Data collected in the census impacts every citizen in this country in many varied and important ways, and I brought along yesterday's USA Today to illustrate my point. The holes in the paper represent the holes in information that we would not have reported in just one issue of an important paper. Half the front page is gone of USA Today. I just cut out articles related to the census, related to census data, that we collect on the long form, Mr. Chairman. Look at this. I went through one paper, and literally every day, if you pick up the paper and read through it, many of the articles rely on census data.

I see my colleague from the Women's Caucus, Connie Morella. I don't know if she is testifying or not, but, Connie, both of us do a lot of research on women, how far they are going, if they are progressing, if they are not, where they are working, if they are working, and practically all the data on women comes from the Census Bureau. It is the same with minorities, any other group in our country, and it is the same for businesses. That is why so many businesses are so adamantly in support of the long form and in support of the census.

This front page article is on the recent successes in the war on cancer. Measurement of these successes requires information on national disease rates, which relies on, guess what, census data. There is also a little front page article on recent college graduate jobs and pay situations. The column on what is up in Washington shows clearly how much policymakers here in Washington and Congress rely on accurate and fair census data.

Raising the Social Security retirement rate to 70, distribution on transportation funding in the 200 billion plus ISTEA legislation, and the distribution of grant moneys, three things which come up in Congress in just 1 day, they are all reported here in the paper. Informed debate on all of them requires accurate census data. Where do we get it? We get it from the long form.

Other articles refer to unemployment levels, crime rates, rates of teen pregnancy. None of that information would be available without the census data, much of which is on the long form.

Finally, the editorial is a discussion of the bilingual education debate sparked by Proposition 227 in California. No matter where one stands on that issue, accurate information is absolutely vital to an informed debate, where bilingual students live, what is their first language, what percentage of a given school district's popu-

lation is bilingual. These questions can only be answered with the accurate data supplied by the census.

All of these programs and issues in just one random day's paper. I challenge you tomorrow, I bet if you look at USA Today tomorrow or any paper, you will cut out as many articles that are based on census data.

When you stop and think, even if only for a few minutes, about the impact of the census on the average American's daily life, one can only marvel at the wisdom of America's Founding Fathers, when they enshrined in the Constitution a requirement for a full, fair, and accurate census.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, there are some in Congress who would just as soon see some of this information go away. I applaud your willingness to hold this hearing and the cooperation you have given in getting a broad level of opinion that will be represented today in this hearing.

Two days ago a group of organizations held a press conference on the House Triangle in support of the Speaker's lawsuit to block the use of modern technology in the census. At that press conference, this quote, "Coalition leader Mr. Grover Norquist advocated that all of the questions on the census be eliminated except for those necessary for apportionment." He said that it was a waste of money.

I hope that through this hearing we will all come to understand the folly of that position, a position regrettably held by many in the majority, hopefully not by the chairman, who I hope will come out strongly in support of the long form.

And all the information that has been in USA Today, and this information would not be there, the stories could not have been written if we didn't have accurate data. As I have said many times before, without accurate data we are just an uninformed opinion. The census gives us accurate data to make better decisions in the planning of our country. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE
CAROLYN B. MALONEY

May 21, 1998

Thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing on the census questionnaire. The data from the Decennial Census is vitally important our nation. Conducting the Census every 10 years is the largest peacetime mobilization undertaken by the federal government. As it should be, because conducting an accurate census is a national security and economic interest of America second to none.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the distribution of close to 200 billion dollars a year in federal monies depends on census data. Clearly, that is reason enough to support the use of the long form by the Census Bureau, but not the only reason. Data collected in the Census impacts every citizen in this country in many varied and important ways.

I've brought a copy of yesterday's *USA Today* to illustrate my point. The holes in this paper represent all of the holes in the nation's information data bases which would be created by the failure to conduct an accurate census. And this is just one day!

Here's a front page article on the recent successes in the war on cancer. Measurement of those successes requires information on national disease rates, which rely on census data. There's also a little front page article on recent college graduates job and pay situations.

The column on what's up in Washington shows clearly how much policy makers here in Congress rely on accurate and fair census data. Raising the Social Security retirement rate to 70, distribution on transportation funding in the $200 billion plus ISTEA legislation, and the distribution of grant monies -- three thing which come up in Congress in just one day. Informed debate on all of them require accurate Census information.

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All of these programs and issues in just one, random day's paper. When you stop and think, even if only for a few minutes, about the impact of the census on the average American's daily life, one can only marvel at the wisdom of America's founding fathers when the enshrined in the Constitution a requirement for a full, fair, and accurate census.

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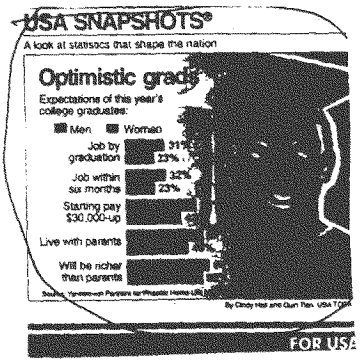
Two days ago a group of organizations held a press conference on the House Triangle in support of the Speaker's law suit to block the use of modern technology in the census. At that press conference, this quote coalition's leader, Grover Norquist advocated that all of the questions on the census be eliminated except for those necessary for apportionment. He said it was a waste of money. I hope that through this hearing we all will come to understand the folly of that position, a position regrettably held by many in the majority.



Montana

Great Falls — The FAA is auditing the books of the Great Falls Airport Authority to determine if the board improperly diverted $300,000 in airport money since '90 to other purposes.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City — The state Senate approved a bill increasing wages for state troopers by $3,150 per year. The increase would lift Oklahoma from 36th to 24th in the nation for trooper salaries. The bill goes to the House.

Texas

Austin — The state's high-tech industry added 89,000 jobs between '87 and '96, more than any other state, the American Electronics Assn. reported. Texas ranked second for the total number of high-tech workers, 343,935 in '96; California ranked first with 724,000.

North Dakota

Bismarck — A proposal to consolidate rural court clerks' offices could eliminate 28 jobs statewide, officials say. A national organization says 23 of the state's 53 counties could do without full-time clerks. Critics say rural areas would lose a service and not just a clerk.

Mississippi

Jackson — A commission is seeking public input to create a children's health insurance plan. Children's health insurance plan which would provide coverage for youngsters whose parents can't afford private health insurance but earn too much to qualify for Medicaid.

Nevada

Las Vegas — Nevada's 330 shopping centers attracted 1.2 million adult buyers who spent $8.3 billion in '97, the International Council of Shopping Centers says. The number of shoppers was up 9% over '96 while the sales were up 7%.

Massachusetts

Boston — Despite strong opposition from parents, the state public health agency voted to require all children who enter kindergarten or a state-licensed day care center to receive a chicken pox vaccine. Letters from parents were 10-1 against the idea. But the board said it had unanimous support of professional organizations.

Virginia

Richmond — Only 32% of the 800 Virginians questioned in a recent poll were aware that the Legislature OK'd $435 million in tax cuts, the biggest in state history. The phone poll was conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University.

New Jersey

Trenton — The state's jobless rate in April was 5.1%, the same as in March, figures show. It continued to hover above the national average, which was 4.3% in April.

Michigan

Lansing — A poll conducted by a Michigan insurance company shows that 74% of the state's residents oppose a Senate bill that would exempt motorcyclists age 21 and older from the mandatory helmet law. That number increased to 82% after hearing arguments on both sides of the issue. The bill has not come before legislators.

Arkansas

Conway — The city wants to build a bypass around its west side to connect with I-40 at each end to alleviate traffic congestion, officials said. The Legislature has OK'd $825,000 in matching funds for a federal impact study. But there's no guarantee the project will be funded, either.

ALSO . . .

▶ **ROADS BILL:** Mass transit and the amount states will receive in gas tax revenue dominated negotiations as House and Senate transportation leaders worked to finalize a $205 billion transportation bill before Congress begins a recess this weekend.

▶ **AIDS GRANTS:** The House voted to give $400,000 to each of the estimated 7,200 hemophiliacs who got the HIV virus from contaminated blood products from July 1982 to December 1987. Families of those who died also qualify. The bill goes to the Senate. Drug companies are giving similar grants to hemophiliac HIV victims. About half of all hemophiliacs got HIV before blood screening was required.

▶ **BUSINESS MANDATES:** Lawmakers could more easily block legislation that imposes new costs on private businesses under a bill the House passed on a 275-152 vote. The proposal would allow separate debate on the cost that proposed legislation would have on businesses. Lawmakers voted 223-190 not to extend the same requirement to legislation that weakens environmental laws.

Today's topic: Bilingual education

Calif. initiative exposes flawed programs nationwide

OUR VIEW **Students languish for years; classes, despite high cost, go unmonitored.**

As a school board member, Fernando Vega helped introduce bilingual education to California's Redwood City schools. Thirty years later, he regrets his work.

Vega's personal epiphany came when his grandson, Jason, was placed in classes taught in Spanish, although the second-generation American spoke only English. When his family demanded a class transfer, they were refused. Due to the school's large Hispanic enrollment, only bilingual classes were offered.

Today Vega, 73, is a vocal supporter of Proposition 227, a California initiative that would dismantle the state's massive bilingual education program for the 430,000 California students now taught primarily in their native languages.

Polls suggest the referendum will pass by a wide margin June 2. But no matter which way it turns out, the proposal's popularity, particularly among Hispanics, has exposed broad and deep national failures in the way bilingual programs are run. Among them:

▶ Few states limit the time students are taught in their native languages, even though the federal government recommends bilingual students should move into regular classes within three years. California graduates only 6% of its bilingual students into English-only classes annually. Result: Students graduate from high school unprepared for colleges and workplaces where English is essential.

▶ Many states provide bonus pay for bilingual teachers and extra school funding for each bilingual student, perverse financial incentives that encourage students to languish in the language-segregated classes.

▶ In districts with high immigrant populations, English-speaking students may be forced into bilingual classes. In Oakland, Calif., for instance, George Louie is suing the school district because no English-only kindergarten classes are offered at his son's local school. As a result, his son, Travell, an African-American, was forced into a Cantonese bilingual program last fall.

▶ At a time when "accountability" is the new mantra of educators, bilingual programs are stuck on automatic pilot. Neither states nor the federal government knows what works or how much bilingual education costs. So confused are the data that estimates range from $2 billion to $10 billion annually. Yet in California, the programs are so bad that the group they should help most, Hispanics, favors junking them, polls show, by as much as 84%.

Because 73% of all bilingual students nationally are Hispanic, bilingual programs are widely blamed for a 30% Hispanic dropout rate, more than twice the national average, and for the low 8% proportion of Hispanics in college.

As a result, parents in several states are demanding a restructuring of failed bilingual programs. In February, the Chicago Board of Education set a three-year time limit on the bilingual classes serving 71,000 students.

Arizona is considering legislation that would end funding for bilingual programs for students who don't join regular classes within four years. And New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has suggested limiting bilingual instruction to a year.

They're moving in the right direction. Teaching all students English as quickly as possible makes sense in a country where the greatest opportunities — and the highest salaries — are reserved for those fluent in the language. But whether Proposition 227 is the right answer is less certain.

The proposal would replace most bilingual education, taught in a student's native language, with intensified English classes. After one year, most students would be placed in traditional classes.

The idea of teaching students with limited English in separate, intensified English classes is backed by the research of Boston University Professor Christine Rossell. She has found that most students are best served when they're taught in a language in which they'll eventually compete.

Unfortunately, though, the proposal has some serious flaws. It assumes that a largely untested, one-size approach will provide a wholesale solution for all that ails bilingual education. And local school districts are left with precious little wiggle room to bail out students who have difficulty making the transition in one year.

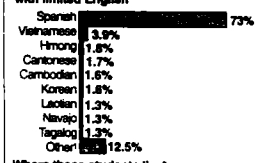
Course corrections are nearly inevitable as California copes with an almost total replacement of a system that serves one-fourth of the state's students.

But an important national movement has been launched. In time, it should improve the education not only of children in California but also of 2 million others in bilingual programs across the country.

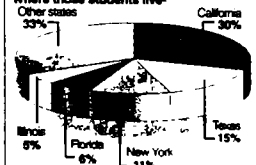
Speaking the language

Most school districts had no experience with bilingual programs until 1968 when Congress passed the Bilingual Education Act. In 1974 the Supreme Court ruled that school districts must provide bilingual education or other language programs. States mandating bilingual education: Alaska, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. States requiring alternatives to bilingual education: Arkansas, Delaware and Nebraska.

Breakdown of students with limited English



Where those students live²



1 — Includes Russian, French Creole, Arabic, Portuguese, Japanese, Armenian, Chinese, Mandarin, Farsi, Hindi and Polish.
2 — According to the 1980 census.

Source: National Research Council

By Suzy Parker, USA TODAY

'GETTING A HANDLE ON THE BIOLOGY OF CANCER'

By Blaze Stoer, USA TODAY

Searching: Oncologists take a biopsy used in a study of Taxol. Recent medical finds have buoyed the scientific community.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- The drugs **angiostatin** and **endostatin** were found to shrink cancerous tumors in mice by cutting off blood supply to the tumor.
- New study shows that **tamoxifen** cuts breast cancer risk by 45% in higher-risk women.
- Adding **Taxol** to chemotherapy drugs reduces rate of recurring breast cancer by 22% and the number of deaths by 26%.

▶ Drugs that starve tumors get mixed results, 1D

▶ New test for prostate cancer, 9D

In TechExtra
Every Wednesday

▶ Top sites for medical advice online, 4D

COVER STORY

Day by day, scientists are chipping away at disease

By Steve Sternberg
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — The drumbeat of good news about cancer over the last few weeks has been all but deafening.

A Harvard doctor has cured cancers in mice. UCLA researchers have shrunk tumors and prolonged survival in women with the most aggressive form of breast cancer.

Then there's the latest on tamoxifen: The drug, used for 20 years to stop breast cancer from recurring, can actually prevent the disease from occurring in the first place. A chemical cousin of tamoxifen, called raloxifene, works equally well. And unlike tamoxifen, it doesn't raise an older woman's risk of uterine cancer.

Is it over? Is the War on Cancer won?

If only it were that simple.

"Wars are never won just like that," says Derek Raghavan of UCLA. "They're a series of battles and skirmishes. If this were World War II this would be 1943. We're about three quarters of the way there."

Doctors express excitement about many of the 2,000 studies presented by the American Society of Clinical Oncology here this week — not because they've learned all the answers to cancer, but because they now know where to look for them.

They have opened new windows into precisely what is broken in the renegade cancer cell. In some instances, they've proposed novel ways to repair the damage and return cells to normal.

"For the first time, I feel confident we are getting a handle on the biology of cancer," Raghavan says. "We're beginning to understand what turns on and what turns off cancer cell growth."

Contrary to what most people think, cancer is not simply a disease of abnormal cells that multiply wildly, crowd out their neighbors and pipe

Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

[illegible] Specialist Henney to be [illegible] FDA chief

[illegible] is expected to nominate [illegible] Specialist Jane Henney to head the Food and Drug Administration, Clinton administration officials said.

Henney, [illegible] vice president of the University of New Mexico's Health Sciences [illegible] the first woman to head [illegible] that regulates 25 percent of [illegible] drugs, medical devices, [illegible] food products.

[illegible] David Kessler, the [illegible] FDA commissioner who [illegible] February 1997, Henney was Kessler's deputy from 1992 to 1994.

Rally called off to avoid new violence

By David Lynch
USA TODAY

JAKARTA, Indonesia — [illegible] clash between anti-government protesters and the military was apparently averted early today as a Muslim leader called off a massive demonstration.

Amien Rais, leader of the 28 million member Muhammadiyah organization, canceled a rally at a monument adjacent to the presidential palace, saying he feared renewed violence in this riot-torn capital.

Students who planned to march to the monument from the parliament building where they have been demonstrating for 3 days were halted by a cordon of police and soldiers.

Authorities also curtailed the public transit and erected military roadblocks on major streets to stymie protests against President Suharto's government. Rais had vowed to bring 1 million people into the streets, but supporters said the fizzled rally was not a serious setback.

Though the government succeeded in blocking today's planned rally, Suharto's surprise announcement one day earlier that he would gradually turn over power to an unnamed successor failed to ease a worsening political crisis.

"I'm disappointed," said Asa, 28. "But Suharto won't last because the people are very angry."

Still, where up to 1 million had been expected, at one point early today, only about a dozen people were allowed through military lines. The group, lawyers calling themselves "reform advocates," said they backed the students' call for Suharto's ouster.

"He is a good leader, actually," said Loutoh, a lawyer. "But if you are too long in power, power tends to corrupt."

In a televised address Tuesday, Suharto, 76, acknowledged the mounting calls for his resignation and promised to call general elections leading to a new president and vice president. Suharto was named to a seventh five-year term as president just two months ago.

But he provided no specific timetable, and Environment Minister Juwono Sudarsono told the BBC that elections could take up to six months.

Popular reaction was unforgiving.

"If tomorrow Suharto does not step down, there will be a lot of trouble," said Ernawaty Purba, 42, a Muslim woman who joined student protesters outside parliament Tuesday. "If we struggle for freedom, we have to be ready for death." More than 500 have died in rioting since last week.

More than 1,000 students spent Tuesday night at the parliament building before being rejoined today by busloads of classmates — including khaki-clad students from a military academy.

In Washington, the Clinton administration urged the government [illegible] communication with [illegible] but otherwise avoided [illegible].

[illegible]lonations

CAPITAL ROUNDUP

Senate rejects bill to cap tobacco trial lawyers' fees

Senators debating the tobacco settlement bill Tuesday took a swipe at another group that's bashed just as frequently as Big Tobacco: trial lawyers. But they missed. The Senate voted 58-39 against a proposal to cap lawyers' fees during tobacco negotiations at $250 an hour.

The proposed settlement is "a wheel of fortune for trial lawyers," some of whom could get the equivalent of tens of thousands of dollars an hour, Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C., said.

AP

Faircloth: 'Wheel of fortune' for lawyers

"We are talking about fees the likes of which the world has never seen," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said.

But Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., a trial lawyer, rose to their defense. He said the real legal villains were tobacco company lawyers who may have conspired to hide damning information about tobacco's dangers.

The battle over fee caps was among the more controversial aspects of the bill.

"There are going to be a lot of explosions" as the debate continues, said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who crafted the legislation. He said he still hopes for final passage by the weekend.

The plan would exact an estimated $516 billion from tobacco companies over 25 years by levying fees that would raise cigarette prices $1.10 a pack over five years. There's also a proposal to raise the tax by $1.50 a pack. The companies also would be restricted in how they sell to minors, and they would pay up to $4 billion in annual penalties if teen smoking rates don't fall. The price support program for tobacco farmers also would end.

SOCIAL SECURITY: Workers could save more money tax-free and invest part of their Social Security contributions in the stock market under a plan put forth by a bipartisan study commission. The panel of lawmakers, business leaders and scholars unanimously endorsed a plan that would divert 2 percentage points of the 12.4% payroll tax into tax-preferred individual savings accounts. Workers could add $2,000 more to the accounts annually. The remainder of the payroll tax, which is split equally between the worker and employer, would go to Social Security. The plan also calls for raising the retirement age to 70 by 2029 and reducing benefits to elderly spousal beneficiaries.

AIRLINE COMPETITION: The government launched a task force to study whether airports engage in practices that make it harder for new and small airlines to compete. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater said questions include whether competition is stifled by long-term gate leases or departure fees known as "passenger facility charges." The report is due in March. Slater also extended by 90 days the June 9 deadline for comments on the department's proposed guidelines to discourage anti-competitive behavior by major carriers. "We haven't heard from the big carriers yet," he said. — David Field

COPYRIGHT LAW: The misappropriation of all or most of the information in an electronic database would be a crime under a bill the House passed by voice vote. Violators also could be sued for damages in civil court, and judges could order the destruction of computer equipment used in the theft of databases. "Good faith" use of databases by nonprofit, scientific or educational groups would be exempt. The law is designed to clear up an area of copyright law that some say has been overtaken by computer technology.

Vice president meets 'Team Leader'

Starr: Agents

Documents detail arguments over Secret Service

By Kevin Johnson and Gary Fields
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Independent counsel Kenneth Starr asserted as recently as last week that his office continues to receive "numerous and credible reports" that Secret Service employees have information relevant to his investigation of President Clinton.

Starr's assertion is contained in 236 pages of court documents made public Tuesday. Prosecutors are seeking to require agents to testify before a federal grand jury investigating allegations that Clinton had an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and tried to cover it up. The Secret Service contends that forcing agents to testify would compromise presidential security.

The newly released papers generally track the opposing arguments by Starr and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Gary Grindler. Those arguments were voiced last week in open court before Chief U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson. But the documents also provide a more detailed account of occasionally emotional talks that began nearly five months ago.

Secret Service Director Lewis Merletti repeatedly asks in the pleadings that he be allowed to address the court about the potential consequences if agents and

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Good times could use a Godzilla to shake things up

By Michael Medved

A few days ago, unemployment reached its lowest level in 30 years. For average Americans, income is now rising faster than inflation, crime rates are going down everywhere, teen pregnancy is declining, air quality has improved in our largest cities and the Cold War is over. We're surrounded by good news on all sides. So why is Hollywood fixated on disaster?

The latest threat to civilization thunders into theaters today: a radioactive reptile that, in one form or another, has been rattling around the world's consciousness for 34 years. The new American *Godzilla* may be the biggest movie menace to date ("Size Does Matter," proclaim the ubiquitous ads). But he hardly stands (or stomps) alone.

In recent months we've seen disaster movies about killer volcanoes (*Dante's Peak* and *Volcano*), devastating floods (*Hard Rain*), terrifying tornadoes (*Twister*), evil alien invasions (*Independence Day*, *Mars Attacks*, *Men in Black*), and cosmic collisions (*Deep Impact*, plus the forthcoming *Armageddon*). As the real world looks less and less fearful, the movie business seems determined to fill the fright gap with bizarre monsters and natural catastrophes. Despite the sunny national mood, film executives feel certain that audiences will welcome nightmarish cinematic assaults on their current confidence.

When the original *Godzilla* hatched in Japan, his appearance made more sense. Less than a decade after Hiroshima, the monster attacked a society still profoundly and unmistakably haunted by memories of atomic devastation. Gojira (as the scaly critter was known in his home country) emerged from Tokyo Bay a timeless terror reactivated by recent radiation, giving shape to nameless fears characteristic of that era.

In Japan, and throughout the world, humanity lived under the shadow of The Bomb, coming to grips with the very real possibility of instantaneous thermonuclear incineration. Countless commentators drew the obvious association between worries over World War III and the unexpected global popularity of a tacky but unstoppable dinosaur who originated in the only nation that ever had actually endured A-bomb attack.

None of this mattered to me as a 7-year-old sci-fi nut in 1956, when U.S. theaters welcomed *Godzilla: King of the Monsters*, newly equipped with lame inserts for American audiences featuring Raymond Burr. I desperately wanted to see the movie at a 25-cent Saturday matinee, but my mother steadfastly refused. She felt certain the monster would plant nightmares in my youthful imagination and also discerned something offensively sacrilegious about the beast's name. Could it be an accident, she wondered, that those sneaky, vengeful Japanese called this evil thing "God-zilla"?

In any event, I didn't get to see that first Big G flick until years later, but I did manage to connect with nearly all successor monsters from Toho Studios, including *Varan the Unbelievable* (a gigantic flying squirrel), *Gamera the Invincible* (a huge, jet-propelled, fire-breathing turtle), *Mothra* (an enormous killer moth), *Gorath* (featuring a gigantic man-eating walrus), *Dagora the Space Monster* (a humongous jellyfish from outer space), Gyaos (a titanic flying fox with fangs), plus self-explanatory titles like *Ghidrah the Three-Headed Monster*, *The Green Slime* and *The Evil Brain from Outer Space*.

Did such ferocious fare help my tender psyche cope with the underlying terrors of the '50s and '60s, equip young Michael to handle menacing world events like the Cuban missile crisis? Who knows. But at least that theory provides some explanation for the otherwise incomprehensible popularity of so many outrageously awful movies featuring actors in moth-eaten monster suits tramping around miniature sets.

A similar notion might help account for the craze in disaster movies in the 1970s, ranging from *The Towering Inferno* and *The Poseidon Adventure* to *The Swarm* and *The China Syndrome*. With world events (the fall of Saigon, the '73 Mideast war, the oil embargo, gas lines, stagflation, Three Mile Island, Afghanistan, sky-high interest rates) threatening long-held certainties, movie disasters provided a more emotionally manageable reflection of real-life calamities.

By contrast, the overwhelmingly cheerful news of the late '90s inspires few echoes in terms of motion picture fare, provoking instead the latest cavalcade of monstrous catastrophes. Some observers this preoccupation reflects evitable impact of the appro millennium. And yet the one menace associated with the ing calendar milestone — the tially devastating computer known as Y2K — has, if an been underplayed in the med looming debacle may not qua motion picture treatment be is both more genuinely frigh and less visually spectacula skyscraper-sized reptilians.

In the final analysis, it is p to argue that Hollywood spaw current spate of disaster mov in spite of prevailing good tid because of them. For many s in high school and college to ways the core audience for films) there's an odd nostalg cerning threats encountered or generations. My parents' tion conquered the Great Dep and won World War II; those the baby boom bulge survive eam, the civil rights movem hippie revolution and disco. current "era of good feelings ordeals can young people c their own? Is it, after all, a n heroism to endure some bo Gore speech on global warm to live through the sheer terro Great Government Shutdown

At least with the new crop acing movie monsters, young can feel that they've overcom authentically formidable They can now tell their gra that in their youth they somet caped from exploding volcano lliding asteroids and rampag nosaurs — in the shape of G *Jurassic Park* velociraptors a haps most chilling of all, the ing purple tyrannosaur of *Great Adv*

Film Michael hosts a d dio talk syndicated the coun is a mem the USA T board of utors.

Mr. MILLER. Just a brief response, and then we will go to our panel. As I said, the constitutional purposes of the census are to apportion Representatives between States and to allow the States to draw congressional districts. The long form is the use of sampling, which is appropriate. The Census Bureau itself has recommended that we move to another type of format for the year 2010 and not have the long form. We will have a hearing on that issue. The information, a lot of it is very valuable information and can be collected via sampling. I think we need to hear from the Census Bureau on why they want to drop the long form. But if it impacts the response rate, it is a very serious issue.

At this time, let me call forward our two——

Mrs. MALONEY. Excuse me. Point of information. You said the Census Bureau wants to drop the long form?

Mr. MILLER. For the year 2000. They are going to the American Community Survey. We will be having a hearing on that at some stage. I am sorry, this is for 2010. This will be the last time they are recommending the use of the long form. So it is the Census Bureau's recommendation about dropping the form, and they feel that they can get accurate sampling information spread over the 10 years, annually collecting the information, rather than just waiting once every 10 years to do it. So we will find the Census Bureau's recommendations on it for year 2010.

At this time, if Congressman Canady and Congresswoman Morella would come forward. I am delighted that you all could join us today.

We have asked for our colleagues who have a particular interest in the questionnaire to come forward. Congressman Canady has a specific piece of legislation, and Congresswoman Morella is in support of that legislation and has also introduced a concurrent resolution concerning the sense of Congress. I will let you all explain the legislation. Who would like to go first?

Mrs. MORELLA. Whichever you say, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MILLER. Congresswoman Morella.

STATEMENT OF HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Mrs. MORELLA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for holding this hearing, and, Ranking Member Maloney, it would certainly save time reading the paper, wouldn't it, if we followed that maxim.

I really appreciate your holding this hearing on a critically important issue, the census long form. And as you mentioned, Chairman Miller, I have introduced legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 246, to express the sense of Congress that the Census Bureau should continue to collect demographic and socioeconomic data on the long form in census 2000. In other words, it is saying the long form provides important information, and Members of Congress feel it should be continued.

I want to commend my colleague and fellow panelist Congressman Canady for his legislation, of which I am an original cosponsor. His legislation would enumerate family caregivers in the census long form. This information, as it is broken down by census

tract, will be very helpful as Congress considers policy to address the needs of caregivers.

The long form, consisting of 52 questions, is sent to 1 in 6 "city style" addresses and 1 in 2 "rural style" addresses. Its questions will provide the only accurate and reliable source of demographic, social and economic data about our population.

The long form data provides both national and local information, and thus we can assess and compare our population and needs as a Nation and as local communities.

The public sector relies on census long form data. Federal agencies must have the information collected by the Census Bureau on the long form in order to administer Federal programs. More than $100 billion of Federal funds are distributed every year based on this information. The Federal Government needs the information to ensure that programs are inclusive, representative, and that they serve the needs of the local populations. For example, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights needs this data to monitor discrimination based on national origin.

Long form data impacts every congressional district in the country. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act allocates $8 billion every year to be used by every school district in the country for programs for the educationally disadvantaged children. These funds are targeted on the basis of census data. The Department of Transportation allocates some ISTEA funds based on the journey to work question on the long form.

Beyond the Federal Government, the largest non-Federal users of long form information are local governments. The National Association of Counties adopted a resolution calling for a census long form, stating that it would "provide the useful demographic information necessary to guide our country into the 21st century."

In addition, State, county and municipal agencies, educators and human service providers, researchers and political leaders all rely on the long form data. Members of Congress depend on accurate information to formulate public policy and understand the needs of our own constituents. The questions on the long form give us insight into our communities, our transportation and our infrastructure, our housing, our most vulnerable constituents and our ethnic constituencies.

Last month Michel Lettre, the assistant director for the Maryland Office of Planning, highlighted the importance of census data for planning in the State of Maryland. One of the most pressing problems facing my own congressional district in Montgomery County, MD, is traffic congestion. The long form provides important data to address this problem. Without the long form data, county officials would not have a clear idea of what transportation needs are and how to remedy congestion.

The private sector is a secondary, but, I think, very important, beneficiary of long form data. Census data promotes economic stability and growth in every sector of our economy. Retail, service, communications, and manufacturing companies rely on this data to allocate resources and develop investment strategies; to determine the location of new stores and plants; to assess the need for job training; to provide educational and child care programs; and to meet customer needs and preferences. Transportation providers use

census data to assess the needs for roads, highways and transit systems. The housing industry relies on census data to gauge housing conditions, predict loan demand, improve and expand housing in underserved markets. The private sector couldn't possibly replicate the information in the census.

One of the important long form questions is the ancestry question. We are a proud Nation of immigrants, and the ancestry question helps us to preserve knowledge about our ethnic heritage for present policymakers and for future generations. The ancestry question gives us insight into our ethnic constituencies and a measure of how we change demographically. Knowing this will help us move toward a society that is inclusive and best serves the diverse needs of our American family.

Critics' complaints about the cost and burden of the long form, I think, are shortsighted and ill-founded. On average, it will take people 38 minutes to fill out the long form. The Census Bureau has simplified the long form, asking fewer additional topics than in 1990. The Census Bureau will collect only, and I will underline "only," data that is specifically required by law or by a Federal court for the implementation of programs or the allocation of Federal funds where the census is the only source. The Bureau has dropped its policy in planning 1990 questions that have no explicit statutory justification, so they have really streamlined. In fact, it is the shortest long form since 1820. At a cost of $400 million total, the long form is less than one-tenth of the cost of the total census. To collect this information without the census long form would be far more expensive, and to forgo this information could lead to very bad decisions or a misallocation of precious resources.

This is a critical year for census planning. Since the 1990 census, there has been much debate over the long form. It is critical that we educate other Members and that we build support for this critical census data. I appreciate the opportunity to share my views with this very important subcommittee, with Chairman Miller, Ranking Member Maloney and the Davises on both sides of the aisle. I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Constance A. Morella follows:]

CONSTANCE A. MORELLA
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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CHAIR,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT
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Congresswoman Connie Morella
Testimony before the Subcommittee on the Census
May 21, 1998

I want to thank Chairman Dan Miller and Ranking Member Carolyn Maloney for holding today's hearing on a critically important issue -- the census long form. As you know, I have introduced legislation, House Concurrent Resolution 246, to express the Sense of Congress that the Census Bureau should continue to collect demographic and socioeconomic data on the long form in Census 2000.

I want to commend my colleague and fellow panelist, Congressman Charles Canady, for his legislation, of which I am an original cosponsor, to enumerate family caregivers in the census long form. This information, as it is broken down by census tract, will be very helpful as the Congress considers policy to address the needs of caregivers.

The long form, consisting of 52 questions, is sent to one in six "city style" addresses and one in two "rural style" addresses. Its questions will provide the only accurate and reliable source of demographic, social, and economic data about our population. The long form data provides both national and local data, thus we can assess and compare our population and needs as a nation and as local communities.

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Long form data impacts every congressional district in the country. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act allocates $8 billion a year to every school district in the country for programs for the educationally disadvantaged children, targeted on the basis of census data. The Department of Transportation allocates some ISTEA funds based on the "journey to work" question on the long form.

Beyond the federal government, the largest non-federal users of long form information are local governments. The National Association of Counties adopted a resolution calling for a census long form "to provide the useful demographic information necessary to guide our country into the 21st century." In addition, state, county, and municipal agencies; educators and human service providers; researchers; and political leaders all rely on long form data.

Members of Congress depend on accurate information to formulate public policy and understand the needs of our own constituents. The questions on the long form give us insight into our communities, our transportation and infrastructure, our housing, our most vulnerable constituents, and our ethnic

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constituencies.

Last month, Michel Lettre, the Assistant Director for the Maryland Office of Planning, highlighted the importance of census data for planning in the State of Maryland. One of the more pressing problems facing my congressional district in Montgomery County, Maryland, is traffic congestion. The long form provides important data used to address this problem. Without the long form data, county officials would not have a clear idea what our transportation needs are and how to remedy congestion.

The private sector is a secondary, but important, beneficiary of long form data. Census data promote economic stability and growth in every sector of our economy. Retail, services, communications, and manufacturing companies rely on this data to allocate resources and develop investment strategies; to determine the location of new stores and plants; to assess the need for job training, educational, and child care programs; and to meet customer needs and preferences. Transportation providers use census data to assess the need for roads, highways, and transit systems. The housing industry relies on census data to gauge housing conditions, predict loan demand, and improve and expand housing in underserved markets. The private sector could not possibly replicate the information in the census.

One of the important long form questions is the ancestry question. We are a proud nation of immigrants, and the ancestry question helps us to preserve knowledge about our ethnic heritage for present policy makers and for future generations. The ancestry question gives us insight into our ethnic constituencies and a measure of how we change demographically. Knowing this will help us move toward a society that is inclusive and best serves the diverse needs of our American family.

Critics' complaints about the cost and burden of the long form are ill-founded and shortsighted. On average, it will take people 38 minutes to fill out the long form. The Census Bureau has simplified the long form, asking fewer additional topics than in 1990. The Census Bureau will collect only data that is specifically required by law or by a Federal court for the implementation of programs or the allocation of Federal funds where the Census is the only source; the Bureau has dropped its policy and planning 1990 questions that have no explicit statutory justification. In fact, it is the shortest long form since 1820. At a cost of $400 million total, the long form is less than one-tenth of the cost of the total census. To collect this information without the census long form would be far more expensive, and to forgo this information could lead to very bad decisions or misallocation of precious resources.

This is a critical year for census planning. Since the 1990 Census, there has been much debate over the long form. It is critical that we educate other Members and build support for this critical census data, and I appreciate the opportunity to do that today.

Mr. MILLER. Congressman Canady, would you like to make your opening statement, please.

Mr. CANADY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today before your panel, and I want to commend you on your efforts to ensure a fair and accurate census carried out in accordance with the requirements of our Constitution.

I want to join in supporting the usefulness of the long form. I believe, as Congresswoman Morella has stated, the long form of the census can be a useful tool for us as policymakers to utilize in working to shape effective public policy. And I believe that Congresswoman Morella has given a number of examples of why that is the case. And while I respect the opinion of those who believe the form is too costly and time-consuming, I believe that the benefits of the information provided through the long form outweigh any drawbacks that may be associated with its use.

Today I would like to specifically address the provisions of my bill, H.R. 2081, and the importance of counting family caregivers in census 2000. My legislation, which is known as the Family Caregivers Enumeration Act, would require the Census Bureau to identify family caregivers in the long form of census 2000. This legislation has been endorsed by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Association for Medical Equipment Services, and the Home Care Coalition, an organization which represents such groups as the American Federation of Home Health Agencies and the Spina Bifida Association of America.

Family caregivers are individuals who provide free care for chronically ill or disabled loved ones. According to a report issued by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, almost 2 percent of the population of the United States needs help performing one or more activities of daily living. Activities of daily living are defined as basic self-care activities, such as eating, dressing or brushing your teeth. These are activities we take for granted, yet many individuals who cannot perform them on their own continue to live at home without specialized medical assistance. Without the help of a family caregiver, these individuals would be forced to depend on the U.S. health care system that is already strained in many ways.

Unfortunately, caregivers and their contributions to the Nation's public health have historically gone unrecognized, and the fact is that all of us are either caregivers now or potential caregivers, and we are also all potentially care recipients. So this is an issue that affects all Americans. It is something that every family can be involved in, and sometimes the responsibilities of family caregiving can come very suddenly. And I believe that as our population ages, this issue is going to become even more important, and we are going to see even more family caregiving taking place in our society.

I first became aware of the obstacles faced by family caregivers when a group of constituents approached me with the idea of counting caregivers in the census. They were concerned that Federal, State and local governments would be unable to effectively address issues of concern to family caregivers without the kind of data that could be provided through the decennial census. I have

worked extensively with Congresswoman Morella and a group headquartered in her district, the National Family Caregivers Association, to draft and promote this legislation and to draw attention to the importance of gathering statistical information that will help policymakers address caregiver issues.

Family caregivers face emotional, physical and financial obstacles every day. Many times they are the lone caregiver for their husband, wife, child or parent and are responsible for their care around the clock. For many individuals, this is a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week situation.

H.R. 2081 would serve to educate policymakers on the number, location and demographics of family caregivers and would help Members of Congress make informed decisions on the most effective ways to assist caregivers in our society.

Mr. Chairman, no one disputes family caregivers have an enormous impact on the health care industry and on the quality of life of thousands of needy persons. Until we know how many family caregivers live in the United States, legislators and policymakers will be unable to properly and comprehensively address the unique and varied needs of this valued part of our community.

The Family Caregiver Enumeration Act is a relatively simple but important first step in recognizing the contributions and needs of dedicated and hard-working family caregivers in all of our districts. I believe that with the information that would be obtained pursuant to this, we would be in a much better position to make the judgments we need to make about meeting the needs of all of our constituents.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for your leadership on the issues related to the census. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring that the upcoming census is successful, and I thank you for allowing me to be here today.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Charles T. Canady follows:]

Testimony of Rep. Charles T. Canady
before the House Government Reform and Oversight
Census Subcommittee

May 21, 1998

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify today before this panel. I would like to commend you on your efforts to ensure a fair and accurate decennial census carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

I believe that the long form of the Census can be a useful tool for legislators as they work to shape public policy. While I respect the opinion of those who believe that the form is too time-consuming, I believe that the benefits of the information provided through the long form outweigh any drawbacks that may be associated with its use.

Today, I would like to discuss the merits of my bill, H.R. 2081, and the importance of counting family caregivers in Census 2000 The Family Caregivers Enumeration Act would require the Census Bureau to identify family caregivers in the long form of Census 2000. The bill has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the National Association for Medical Equipment Services, and the Home Care Coalition, which represents such groups as the American Federation of Home Health Agencies and the Spina Bifida Association of America.

Family caregivers are individuals who provide "free" care for chronically ill or

disabled loved ones. According to a report issued by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, almost 2 percent of the population of the United States needs help performing one or more Activities of Daily Living. Activities of Daily Living are defined as basic self-care activities, such as eating, dressing, or brushing your teeth. These are activities that we take for granted, yet many individuals who cannot perform them on their own continue to live at home without specialized medical assistance. Without the help of a family caregiver, these individuals would be forced to depend on a U.S. health care system that is already strained in many ways. Unfortunately, caregivers and their contributions to the nation's public health have historically gone unrecognized.

The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that all of us are either caregivers now or could be caregivers in the future. This is an issue that potentially affects the entire population.

I first became aware of the obstacles faced by family caregivers when a group of constituents approached me with the idea of counting caregivers in the Census. They were concerned that federal, state, and local governments would be unable to effectively address issues of concern to family caregivers without the kind of data that could be provided through the decennial census. I have worked extensively with Congresswoman Morella and a group headquartered in her district, the National Family Caregivers Association, to draft and promote this legislation, and draw attention to the importance of gathering statistical information that will help policy-makers address caregiver issues.

Family caregivers face emotional, physical, and financial obstacles every day. Many times they are the lone caregiver for their husband, wife, child, or parent and are responsible for their care around the clock. H.R. 2081 would serve to educate policy makers on the number, location, and demographics of family caregivers and would help Members of Congress make informed decisions on the most effective ways to assist caregivers.

Mr. Chairman, no one disputes that family caregivers have an enormous impact on the health care industry and on the quality of life of thousands of needy persons. But until we know how many family caregivers live in the United States, legislators and policy makers will be unable to properly and comprehensively address the unique and varied needs of this valued part of community. The Family Caregiver Enumeration Act is a relatively simple but important first step in recognizing the contributions and needs of dedicated and hard-working family caregivers in all of our districts.

Again, thank you for allowing me this time.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you all very much.

Let me correct what I was saying. There is no question we are going to use the long form in the year 2000. There has been a proposal by the Census Bureau, and apparently they haven't finalized their position on this, and that is to phaseout, after the year 2000, the long form and go to what is called the American Community Survey, which would be done on an annual basis and continually updated. And at some stage we will have a hearing to find out what the Census Bureau really plans to do. But there is no question, we are going to have the long form in the year 2000.

It is interesting, I was flying home recently, and I completed the questionnaire. You should do that. I had trouble completing some of the questions personally, and one is the question of transportation. When you start traveling, you go by car, so it is easy since you live in the neighborhood. But I fly, my home is in Florida, and that is not provided for the questionnaire. I know we all have unique jobs here, but you wonder, maybe sales people have the same problem. How do they go to and from work? It was even difficult for me to fill out one phase of the particular questionnaire.

Congressman Canady, recently I did meet with a group of caregivers at a senior citizens day care center and had lunch with the caregivers, the wives and mothers or daughters of a number of them, and so it drove home the point that there are a lot of them that devote a great deal to their loved ones, and they are, first of all, appreciative of having a day care center during the day. But there is a lot more than you realize, and their lives are very much impacted by the commitment they make to that particular relative, so I recognize that.

When you start adding questions to a questionnaire, when you do this in any type of questionnaire, it costs money, and it affects response rates. So the question is, what will you use it for. Give me a little better description on how we will use the information on caregivers. It would be nice information to know.

Mr. CANADY. I think it is very basic in that it is hard for us to make judgments about the proper policy to assist family caregivers, to meet the needs of family caregivers and the family members they are serving, unless we have comprehensive information about what is actually taking place. And, quite frankly, I think that part of the answer to the question is that there is great unawareness of the extent to which family caregiving actually is going on in our society.

I know I was surprised when I started talking with constituents, and it is not that I had never been aware of family caregiver situations, I was, but when you start looking at the number of people that are affected, it is quite impressive. I think that one very important aspect of this is simply getting that information so that all of us would understand the magnitude of the issue that we confront when it comes to family caregivers. Understanding their particular demographic characteristics and all the other types of information we would gather, I think, can help us formulate the appropriate public policies to assist family caregivers.

Now, obviously, we have to have family caregivers, and the kind of policies we are looking for are policies that will help them and support them in carrying out their responsibilities they have as-

sumed as family caregivers. Just having the basic information about how many there are, where they are, the size of the family units and other things we would gather from this information I think can be helpful.

And it is not magic. I mean, the information could be gathered and sit on the shelf. That sometimes happens. But I believe in this case, as family caregiving is becoming more and more important, this kind of information would be very valuable to the policymakers, and it is not the kind of information that will sit on the shelf.

For instance, I think an area we need to be looking at very carefully is ways we can provide additional respite care for family caregivers. That is a very big issue for family caregivers, and I think having the information about how many we are actually talking about, how many that are involved in around-the-clock, 7-day-a-week caregiving would be helpful in formulating the right kind of strategies to target respite care and to have effective respite care programs that meet the real needs that are there.

Mr. MILLER. It is possible, maybe, that the new proposal will give more flexibility to ask those types of questions than when you tie it into the decennial census, that is where it has the potential impact it did between 1980 and 1990 of affecting response rates, so obviously we will find out once we do the 2000 census.

Mr. CANADY. Mr. Chairman, I am not here to endorse the status quo. That is not my point. I have a particular issue that is an important policy issue we should focus on. There may be questions being asked that don't need to be asked, so we need to look at it. We need to take a fresh look. I mean, I commend that to your efforts. I just hope while you are doing that, you will take a very close look at the merits of looking at family caregivers and getting us a better understanding of the very important role they play. And I think questions with respect to family caregivers are something that could end up benefiting every single family in this country.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, it could also tie in with what Mr. Canady has said in terms of location of facilities that would assist the caregivers, whether it is medical facilities, whether there are shops or what they might need.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you both for your testimony.

I would just like to ask you, Representative Canady, it is my understanding that the Census Bureau has been working with you in response to your interest in caregivers to develop questions on family caregivers on a survey of income and program participation; is that correct? So they are putting the questions on that survey; is that correct?

Mr. CANADY. That is correct, and I want to thank the Bureau of the Census for recognizing the need for additional information on this. As I understand it, as we speak, the survey of income and program participation is going forward with some questions concerning caregivers included, and that is a survey that is occurring from April through July of this year, but it will only cover about 36,000 households. Now, that is significant, and I appreciate the Census Bureau's including these questions, and that is——

Mrs. MALONEY. But my question is do we need—I can't believe I am asking this because I am an advocate of the long form, but do we need questions on the census form as well if we already have it on the other survey of income, and why do we need it on both surveys?

Mr. CANADY. I think you could take the position you don't need a long form at all, and some would advocate you could just use these less extensive surveys and gather information in that way. I don't think that we get the level of detail and comprehensiveness that we get with the long form in the other type of survey.

Mrs. MALONEY. But this would be program participation, so it would be people that are in the family caregiver programs. Wouldn't that cover them?

Mr. CANADY. I don't think it is intended just to cover people who are actually participating in an existing program. I think it is broader, because part of the problem with that is if we just cover people who are participating in the programs, we would be losing a lot of people, because a lot of these families don't participate in any program, they get no sort of help at all, they are out there on their own doing the best they can.

Mrs. MALONEY. You would know better than I would that many members of particularly your party, do not advocate the long form. In fact, they have really been trying to take questions off of it. And I just wonder, have you discussed this? In fact, the former Chair of the subcommittee, Mr. Hastert, was not supportive of adding to the long form, or the long form for that matter.

Have you asked some of your colleagues, such as Representative Rogers, who argue for a form even shorter than the one that has been proposed by the Census Bureau; in other words, is there support on your side of the aisle for adding these questions to the form? Have you discussed it with some of the people?

Mr. CANADY. I have not discussed this with Chairman Rogers. I know his longstanding opposition to the long form. We have been trying to get cosponsors. We have a bipartisan group of cosponsors. It is not an enormous group. But my attitude on this is that this should not be a partisan issue. Family caregivers are Democrats, they are Republicans, they are Independents. This should be removed from partisanship entirely, and I believe this is a responsible measure that would help us do a better job of meeting the needs of family caregivers, and that is why I am pursuing it. Some of my colleagues on the Republican side may have a philosophical difference about the purpose of the census entirely, but the point I would make is if we are going to have a long form, and I believe there is a strong case to be made for that, this is exactly the kind of question that should be included because this is addressing a very important policy issue and will provide us information that will help us do a better job in legislating.

Mrs. MALONEY. Representative Morella, some people suggest that one way to shorten the census form is to ask only the questions identified as mandated. In your opinion, Representative Morella, what would be the effect of eliminating the questions that aren't mandated?

Mrs. MORELLA. Well, actually, Congresswoman Maloney, as I mentioned, they pretty much streamlined this long form. Now, I

would like to correct something that I stated. I stated that this is the shortest long form since 1820. Well, let the record state that this long form for 2000 is shorter than both the 1980 and the 1990 long form, but the short form is the shortest since 1820, so we will get that taken care of. But it is streamlined so that, frankly, the questions that are asked are all questions that in some way link up with responsibilities and mandates that we do have.

I wanted to also pick up on what Chairman Miller said with regard to that American Communities Survey. First of all, I am very pleased that he mentioned that the long form will be preserved for this coming census. And subsequent to that, I know there are tests that are taking place, and I would applaud you for having hearings to find out whether or not that more timely data does work out better.

Mrs. MALONEY. I just would like to really ask both of you a very brief question. In the appropriations process, the idea has come up that agencies that use the questions should pay for them, and this usually comes from the appropriations subcommittee Chair who has to deal with the cyclical swings in census funding.

OMB has argued that the administrative burden of handling the budget with questions through nearly a dozen appropriations subcommittees is inefficient. Rather, they argue, that it should be treated as a governmentwide investment and funded through a single agency, and I would like to ask both of you your response to that question, whether it should be funded through a single agency or through the appropriations process as some have recommended.

Mrs. MORELLA. I think it should be funded by the appropriations process for all of them. If you were to look at what the cost would be of getting the data that is on that census for the private sector, for the public sector, for all of the localities, for every entity, it would be astronomical, and we are talking about only $400 million.

In the Government Reform and Oversight Committee just today, we had a measure that dealt with looking at regulations in terms of what the costs would be and whether or not there are any benefits that would be weighed. I would submit that the cost of even that agency, you know, would be higher if they were to look at every regulation. And when you think about what that cost would be to the private sector, it would just be so very high, we couldn't afford it.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Canady.

Mr. CANADY. I haven't fully evaluated the arguments on both sides of this issue, but it would be my inclination to think it is easier and makes more sense to fund this on a unified basis and not try to divide it up. I think you just get into complications and fights over, well, you get different groups using the same data, who is going to pay for that, how do you divide that up. This is the responsibility of the whole government, and it ought to be dealt with on that basis. That would be my inclination.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you very much. I have no further questions.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Davis of Virginia.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Just a couple questions. Some in the Census Bureau and the professional statistical lobby have argued that we can use statistical estimation to determine the population of the

country; that estimates would then be used to divide up political representation to govern America. They claim that this statistical information, in their estimation, based on a sample of roughly 1 in 100 Americans would be more accurate than actually trying to count everyone.

Now, my question is, if taking a sample of 1 in 100 is good enough to decide how Americans will be governed over the next decade, why do we need to take a sample of 1 in every 6 Americans to find out how many bedrooms a person has in their house and how far they drive to work? It seems to me that we have our priorities all wrong here. Doesn't it make sense that if you give the 1 in 100 being good enough to choose the government, that we take a sample of 1 in 500 or 1 in 1,000, or any comments on that?

Mr. CANADY. I think we should have an actual enumeration, and we should count everybody for the basic purpose of the census. There are other things we are accomplishing through the census through the long form which I think are valuable from the public policy perspective, but when it comes to the fundamental constitutional requirement for a census, I think we would be making a serious mistake to do anything other than actual enumeration as is specifically provided for in the Constitution.

Mrs. MORELLA. The American Statistical Society and all of the other scientific organizations have felt that the sampling, as so described and so implemented, is what is appropriate.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Actually that is not quite accurate. There are some groups that do and some that don't.

Mrs. MORELLA. But, I mean, it just seems as those that have been recognized of long standing have gotten together and felt that way. But I am sure you will find disagreements on both sides, so I defer to their expertise.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. That is all I got.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Thomas M. Davis follows:]

STATEMENT OF REP. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS
MAY 21, 1998

I would like to personally thank Chairman Dan Miller for holding this oversight hearing on the 2000 Census and the use of the Long and Short Form Questionnaires. We clearly have a very interesting agenda of witnesses, including my good friend from across the Potomac Congresswoman Connie Morella and the gentleman from Florida Congressman Canady. I look forward to an open discussion of the two questionnaire formats.

In this Congress I have co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 38 which was introduced by Representative Morella. This resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that the ancestry question on the Long Form should be preserved. I have worked closely with many organizations from my District that represent a cross-section of all Americans. Overwhelmingly they have called for the preservation of the ancestry question on the Long Form during the 2000 Census.

Italian-Americans, Scottish-Americans, Korean-Americans, Irish-Americans, Arab-Americans and many others are all united as Americans, however they also understand and value the importance of their heritage and desire to have ancestry data included in our Census process. We all depend on accurate information and the ancestry question gives us invaluable insight into our communities and ethnic constituencies. It is an important source of social and economic data about our population.

Those who use ancestry data include: State, county, and municipal governments; educators and human service providers; corporations; researchers; political leaders; and many Federal agencies. The ancestry question provides important insights into who we are as a people, how are neighborhoods are constituted, and how we are changing demographically. It is said, "how can you know where you are going, if you do not know where you have been." This information helps us understand where we have been and where we may be going as a Nation.

Once again, I extend my thanks to Chairman Dan Miller for holding this important hearing.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Davis of Illinois.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And let me also commend you for convening these hearings. I think the information that we are attempting to gather is certainly helpful and beneficial.

Both of you have indicated the desirability of making use of the long form. Representative Canady, you talked about getting information about a specific group, say, caregivers. Do you think that there might be any number of other groups that people would want to include in the data gathering and whether or not we reach the point where you have got a cutoff, you have got to say this is all we can take? And if that be the case, then how do we make the determination about which sets of data are in and which ones are out?

Mr. CANADY. Representative Davis, I think you are absolutely right. Obviously you have to establish some priorities. You can't ask every question everybody wants to ask you. You can't focus on every group that everyone wants you to focus on.

The only point I make with respect to family caregivers is that it is an issue that really affects all Americans potentially, and that I believe that that should be a priority. Others, obviously, may reach a different judgment. You would have to bring your common sense to that and your experience in the legislative process concerning what information will be most available and will actually be useful to us from a public policy standpoint. And there is nothing magical about it, and I realize that people in good faith can have disagreements about what the priorities should be.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Please don't think that my question is an indication that I don't agree with you. As a matter of fact, I think the kind of information that you are seeking to get is some of the most important data that we could possibly have, especially since I spent many years of my life as a health planner. That kind of information certainly would be helpful in making determinations.

Representative Morella, we always talk about cost, and there is just no way that you can get around it. What kind of cost differential would you see in making use of the long form versus a shorter version of a form?

Mrs. MORELLA. Well, the statistics I have, Mr. Davis, are that it would be about $400 million. When you consider what we save by virtue of this information all being compiled as scientifically and accurately as we can do it, I think it saves a tremendous amount of money.

Mention has been made of health care facilities. I point out the ancestry question. The number of ESL classes that you might need, the number of schools that you might need in terms of children, the kind of housing you might need, all of this information comes to the fore from the long form, and you would not get it on the short form. I know, as I said, only 1 out of every 6 people will be looking at the long form.

Transportation, as you mentioned, is a problem in our area and other parts of the country with mass transportation. And because of Chairman Miller, I am working very hard on good radar at National Airport to make sure that your trips are going to be safe.

Will Rogers, incidentally, on an entirely different point, had the answer to the problem of traffic congestion. The area I live in has a very high level of traffic congestion, and he said the way to handle that is to pass a law which would say you could not have any car on the road unless it was fully paid for by the person driving it. Think about that. That might work out.

So I would simply submit that when you consider all of the kinds of information that we use that comes from the census and that $400 million is less than one-tenth of the cost of the total census; it is worth an awful lot more than what we pay to get the information. Even in terms of shopping centers, where do you locate shopping centers, where do you locate the amenities the caregivers need, the census is very helpful.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. So you are suggesting it is really a minor investment from which we will get a tremendous amount of return, so cost would not be prohibitive in any kind of way?

Mrs. MORELLA. You stated it very well.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Canady, one other question. Again, it relates to the question of cost. There are some people who suggest that if we want all of this additional information, and that if different users are requesting it, then perhaps some of the extraneous information beyond baseline data should be paid for by the users, by the requesters, and by the people who are suggesting that we ought to have it. Could you respond to that, and also respond to the question of who would make the decision about the cutoff of data? I mean, who would decide what goes in and what goes out?

Mr. CANADY. Well, the subcommittee will know better how the process currently works than I do. But ultimately, as a matter of law, we can decide certain things are going to be included, and that is why I filed the bill that I filed, because I believe this is one thing that is right to be included. But I also believe that you on the subcommittee are right to look at the whole range of issues associated with this, and if there are things that are being asked that don't need to be asked or should not be a priority, then those could go. But we are here in the Congress, and we have ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the census is carried out, so I think that really the buck stops with us, as the Congress, to make those judgments, or to set up a process which we authorize for those judgments to be made.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman. I thank you very much and would suggest to both the witnesses that I share many of the comments that you have made.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Danny K. Davis follows:]

STATEMENT OF DANNY K. DAVIS (IL-7)
"Reviewing The Long and Short Form Questionnaires"
May 21, 1998
Subcommittee on the Census

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for convening this hearing regarding a review of the new long and short form census questionnaires. In addition, I would like to thank our distinguished witnesses for taking the time to share their expertise with us as it relates to this component of the 2000 Census.

The questionnaire forms we discuss today are critical to determining resource allocation for communities throughout the country. In addition, these forms raise a number of questions with respect to the questions asked, the number of questions, and the issue of how we will identify race. Perhaps the most contentious issue is that of race identity since the new form for the first

time allows an individual to mark off more than one race.

However, I am certain that the witnesses will be able to address the areas of contention with respect to the race questions.

I am pleased that there have been several improvements in the short and long forms. For example, the short form contains 6 questions, down from 9 in 1990. The long form contains 52 questions, down from 57 in 1990.

I would like the witnesses to speak to the likelihood of people not returning forms because they may be too invasive. In addition, is there a projected number of forms that likely will not be returned? Again, thank you for convening this hearing and I look forward to hearing from our distinguished guests.

Thank you.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Blagojevich.

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. No questions.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you all very much for being here with us today.

Why don't we wait a minute while the table gets set up for our next panel.

If you all will remain standing. Raise your right hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. MILLER. Please be seated. Thank you.

Let the record show that all the witnesses answered in the affirmative.

Welcome. Thank you all very much for coming. Your official statements will be put in the record, and we ask you hold your comments to 5 minutes because we have a panel of four. We will proceed along, and then we will go through with questions by members of the panel.

Mr. Hubbard.

STATEMENTS OF JAMES B. HUBBARD, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMICS, AMERICAN LEGION; WEN-YEN CHEN, PRESIDENT, FORMOSAN ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS; DAVID CLAWSON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS; AND MARLO LEWIS, JR., VICE PRESIDENT FOR POLICY, COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Mr. HUBBARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief.

I am here today on behalf of the 2.8 million members of the American Legion, and I am here to speak in favor of the long form.

Question 20 on the long form, and there are three parts to it, relate to data as to where veterans are. And when you coordinate that with the location of the person answering the form, you know where veterans live.

The Department of Veterans Affairs budget is approximately $43 billion. The discretionary portion of that is about $17 billion. The allocation of that $17 billion depends on data collected on the long form. The Veterans Employment Training Service at the Department of Labor has a budget of about $160 million. Virtually all of that money is allocated based on where veterans reside. The positions funded at the State level who handle veterans' employment issues are allocated and funded based on the veterans population of each State.

Having said that, I will tell you that the American Legion is committed to assisting the Bureau of the Census in completing a full, complete and accurate count of the population of the United States. We did that in 1990, and we did it in 1980, and we mean to make a difference in having a complete and accurate count this time around. Thank you very much.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Hubbard.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hubbard follows:]

STATEMENT OF

JAMES B. HUBBARD, DIRECTOR
NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION
THE AMERICAN LEGION

Before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CENSUS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 21, 1998

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the 2.8 million members of The American Legion, I thank you for the opportunity to appear today. At the outset, let me say that The American Legion endorses the Year 2000 Decennial Census. We will undertake several efforts to ensure a complete, accurate count of all residents residing in America's communities.

Beyond an accurate count there is a very important reason to use the long form. The long form records veterans' census information. There are two major agencies of the United States Government that depend on accurate data from the long form to make resource allocation decisions that effect all veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs relies on the long form to determine the proper location for hospitals, clinics, cemeteries and some other VA facilities. The allocation of discretionary funds based on where veterans reside amounts to some $17 billion. Attempting to guess where to allocate this much money without accurate data would be a major problem and will adversely impact on VA's ability to properly meet the needs of America's veterans.

The Veterans Employment and Training Service at the Department of Labor requires accurate census data to deal with the employment problems faced by veterans when they leave the armed forces. Chapter 41 of Title 38 USC requires the Secretary of Labor to assign some field staff based on the veteran census. Each state has a Director of Veterans' Employment and Training. Section 4103 further requires the Secretary to assign one Assistant Director of Veterans Employment and Training for every 250,000 veterans and eligible persons in the state veteran population.

Section 4103a of Title 38 USC requires the assignment of one Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialist for every 6,900 veterans residing in each state. Specialists are Vietnam veterans, veterans who entered active duty after May 7, 1975, or disabled veterans. This data is only available from the Bureau of the Census based on an accurate sampling of the veterans population derived

from the long form. Further, Section 4104 of Title 38 requires that at least 1,600 Local Veterans Employment Representatives be assigned to the various states. An accurate count of veterans, as determined by the Decennial Census, assists in developing the formula used to assign Local Veterans Employment Representatives.

The long form also helps the veterans' service organizations collect accurate data on the homeless veteran population. This information allows us to better serve their needs. Experts estimate that 750,000 Americans are homeless on any given night in this country. At least one third are veterans. One third of that number served during the Vietnam era. In our major cities the percentage of veterans in the homeless population could be in excess of 50 percent.

According to the National Coalition For Homeless Veterans (NCHV), approximately fourteen percent of all homeless veterans have a spouse and dependents. The International Union of Gospel Missions (IUGM) conducts an annual survey of America's homeless. According to the 1997 survey, 32 percent of the 11,000 homeless surveyed are veterans. Ten percent of those veterans served in the armed forces during the Desert Storm era.

According to the Veterans Administration, veterans do not generally show up in their homeless programs until ten years after their discharge. Considering past experience, the number of homeless Desert Storm veterans seeking treatment and services from VA will increase significantly in the near future. The American Legion recognizes the challenges faced over the years in properly and accurately documenting this group of Americans. The use of the long form will assist the federal, state and local governments in better serving the needs of homeless veterans and homeless Americans.

Mr. Chairman, The American Legion is committed to ensuring a complete and accurate census. We will be notifying our Posts, in some 15,000 communities across the nation, of the national need for an accurate census count. We will be asking those Posts that own facilities to make them available for training centers for census enumerators and for the gathering of census data forms collected by those enumerators. We will be encouraging our members to become census workers and census supervisors in the communities where they live.

Our members are "on duty" across the nation. We are perpetuating the good works we have accomplished for seventy-nine years through an array of community oriented programs. Our 4 million members of The American Legion family: The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion are making a difference in the lives of our fellow citizens. The collective good we perform does not make headlines but is does make a difference. We mean to make a difference in this Decennial Census.

Attached to this statement is Resolution 2 passed unanimously by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion on May 6, 1998. Mr. Chairman, this concludes the statement of The American Legion.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
MAY 6-7, 1998

RESOLUTION NO.: 2

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR DECENNIAL CENSUS IN THE YEAR 2000

WHEREAS, The 2000 Census of Population and Housing marks the 210th anniversary of the first national census in 1790, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The census serves as the statistical foundation for the nation, providing information for equal representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local elected governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, The census produces the information used by the federal and state governments to return billions of dollars annually to the nation's local governments for many worthwhile purposes; and

WHEREAS, The census supplies vital demographic and socio-economic statistics to governments at all levels and to the private sector for the economic benefit of all communities; and

WHEREAS, The Decennial Census will produce valuable facts about America's veterans that will be essential for The American Legion in developing its policies and programs; and

WHEREAS, A successful Decennial Census requires cooperation from all residents of the United States of America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 1998, That The American Legion endorses the Year 2000 Decennial Census; encourages its members to support public cooperation with the Year 2000 Decennial Census by undertaking various employment, promotion, and outreach projects in conjunction with their local government leaders and the Bureau of the Census; and agrees to publicize this endorsement to patriotic and veterans communities as well as to the public at large.

JAMES B. HUBBARD

DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION

THE AMERICAN LEGION

James B. Hubbard is a native of Michigan. Born in Manistee, Michigan in 1943, he was raised in Ludington, Michigan where he graduated from high school in 1961. After completing his BA in History from Western Michigan University in 1966, he attended ROTC camp and entered active duty with the United States Army in December, 1966.

During his military career Jim served as a platoon leader in an Infantry Battalion in Vietnam, platoon leader in a truck company, aide-de-camp, executive officer to an Army Command staff section and commander of a transportation company. His military schooling includes Armor Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, and the Jungle Operations Course at the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Panama. Jim's service in the army has taken him to Ft. Eustis, Virginia, Ft. Knox, Kentucky, Ft. Hood, Texas, Ft. Meade, Maryland, and two different bases in Vietnam.. He retired from the Army by reason of a service connected disability in February, 1973.

Joining The American Legion national staff in January of 1977, Jim accepted a position as Assistant Director for National Security. He was promoted to Deputy Director for National Security in July of 1979 and served in that capacity until February of 1989 when he accepted a promotion to his current position. As Director of the American Legion National Economic Commission Jim serves as the primary staff liaison with the Department of Labor for veterans' employment issues, with the Department of Veterans Affairs for vocational rehabilitation and home loan guaranty issues, with the Small Business Administration for veterans' small business loans, and with the Federal Office of Personnel Management for veterans' preference in federal hiring. Mr. Hubbard is the current chair of the Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment and Training. He also serves as the primary liaison with the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security and the Interstate Conference of State Employment Security Agencies. He is an ex-officio member of the ICESA Veterans' Committee.

Mr. Hubbard's military awards include the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Valorous Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

In addition to his BA in History, Mr. Hubbard holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia.

Prior to joining the national staff of The American Legion, Jim worked in managerial positions for the Hechinger retail home center chain in the Washington, DC, area.

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May 21, 1998

Honorable Dan Miller, Chairman
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
Subcommittee on the Census
H1-114 O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The American Legion received a $98,982 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in August 1996. The purpose of the grant is to identify and evaluate military occupational specialties that have application to civilian careers that require a license or certificate. The American Legion has not received federal monies relevant to the subject of today's hearing on the Year 2000 Decennial Census.

Sincerely,

James B. Hubbard, Director
National Economics Commission

Mr. MILLER. Professor Chen.

Mr. CHEN. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Taiwanese American community, I thank you for providing me with this opportunity to brief the members of the Census Subcommittee on the concern of the Taiwanese Americans about the upcoming census 2000.

In the 1990 census, about 80,000 respondents identified themselves as Taiwanese under the race question; 193,000 marked Taiwanese as their ancestry because the ancestry question listed Taiwanese as an example. This discrepancy is caused by the fact that in the census 1990, Taiwanese was not listed as a separate category under the race question, while it was explicitly listed as an example under the ancestry question.

Even today, the Census Bureau cannot provide us with the number of Taiwanese Americans that reflect reality. The Bureau simply doesn't know how many Taiwanese Americans there are in the United States. That is the reason why Taiwanese Americans have campaigned for many years with a reasonable request: We want to be counted.

Specifically, our campaign is directed at urging the census 2000 to list Taiwanese as an option under the race question, question No. 6, with a separate check box along with Asian, Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese, and publish this data on Taiwanese Americans, and make them available to the public.

In a letter in response to the above request, the Census Bureau cited several reasons for excluding Taiwanese Americans despite the recommendation for the inclusion by the Census Advisory Board. Each of the reasons is unjustified.

First, the Census Bureau stated that Department of State has requested that we, the Census Bureau, do not place the Taiwanese category in the race question because it may cause diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China. The census is our Nation's internal matter. It has nothing to do with international relations.

Second, the Census Bureau asserts that Taiwanese Americans are not included because of severe space constraints on the form. This only is a technical problem which can be easily solved.

Third, the Census Bureau recommends that including Taiwanese Americans may confuse respondents and lower the quality of the data. We believe that the opposite is true.

These excuses cannot form the basis for excluding Taiwanese Americans from being counted.

Let me explain why Taiwanese Americans believe that question No. 6 of census 2000 should have a separate check box for Taiwanese Americans. First, the State Department's position that separate categories for Taiwanese Americans may cause diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China is unacceptable. The U.S. census is a constitutionally mandated population count. It gathers detailed information for various domestic purposes, such as equal access in housing, education and employment. Accurate demographic data are also very important for business and community groups to provide services for specific communities. It has nothing to do with international relations. To let a national matter, such as census, be sabotaged by the fear of how the People's Re-

public of China might react is un-American and totally inappropriate.

The State Department in a letter, in response to the Census Bureau's request for policy guidance in reference to listing Taiwanese as a separate category, asserts that they are not aware of any generally accepted basis for a race of Taiwanese distinct from Chinese. To make such a claim, the Department of State must be unaware of the definition of race contained in the OMB's Directive No. 15 on Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting. According to Directive 15, race and ethnicity should not be interpreted as being primarily biological and genetic in reference. Race and ethnicity may be thought of in terms of social and cultural characteristics as well as ancestry. Furthermore, self-identification is the preferred means of obtaining such information.

Three years ago, the House and Senate passed legislation establishing that Taiwanese Americans can list Taiwan as the place of birth in their passport, instead of China. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service maintains separate quotas for Taiwanese and the Chinese. If these two Federal agencies could maintain separate quotas for Taiwanese, why cannot the Census Bureau?

Three, we also strongly disagree with additional arguments put forth by the Census Bureau. In the affirmation letter, the Bureau claims that there is no space on the current form for a separate check box for Taiwanese, and an additional category may cause the respondent to lower the quality of the data. The problem can easily be solved by slightly adjusting the design of the format. There is space on the form.

Finally, I would like to point out that 62,000 Samoan Americans have their own check box. Those of Chamorran descent of Guam, totaled over 130,000, they have their own check box. By contrast, 400,000 or 500,000 Taiwanese Americans do not.

Mr. Chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee and subcommittee members, I would like to thank you and staff director Dr. Hofeller for your open-mindedness in this matter and your willingness to listen. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Chen follows:]

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Taiwanese American community, I thank you for providing me with this opportunity to brief the members of the Census Subcommittee on the concerns of Taiwanese Americans about the upcoming Census 2000.

In the 1990 Census, about 80,000 respondents identified themselves as "Taiwanese" under the race question. 192,973 marked "Taiwanese" as their ancestry because the ancestry question listed "Taiwanese" as an example. This discrepancy is caused by the fact that, in the Census 1990, "Taiwanese" was not listed as a separate category under the race question, while it was explicitly listed as an example under the ancestry question. Even today, the Census Bureau can not provide us with a number of Taiwanese Americans that reflects reality. The Bureau simply does not know how many Taiwanese Americans there are in the United States.

That is the reason why Taiwanese Americans have campaigned for many years with a reasonable request: ***We want to be counted!***

Specifically, our campaign is directed at urging the Census 2000 to:

List "Taiwanese" as an option under the race question (question #6) with a separate check-off box along with Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese, and code and publish

these data on Taiwanese Americans, and make them readily available to the public.

In a letter in response to the above request (See: page 8), the Census Bureau cited several reasons for excluding Taiwanese Americans, despite the recommendation for *inclusion* by the Census Advisory Board. (See: page 9) Each of these reasons is unjustified.

First, the Census Bureau stated that "The Department of State has requested that we (i.e. the Census Bureau) do not place a "Taiwanese" category in the race question because it may cause diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China." The census is our nation's internal affair. It has nothing to do with foreign relations.

Second, the Census Bureau asserts that Taiwanese Americans are not included because of "severe space constraints on the form." This is only a technical problem, which can easily be solved.

Third, the Census Bureau claims that including Taiwanese Americans "may confuse respondents and lower the quality of the data." We believe that the opposite is true.

These excuses can not form the basis for excluding Taiwanese Americans from being counted.

Despite the fact that Members of Congress such as Representatives Berman, Deutsch, and Senator Murkowski have approached the Census Bureau and the State Department with our plea, our plea has fallen on deaf ears.

Let me explain why Taiwanese Americans believe that question 6 of the Census 2000 form should have a separate check-off box for Taiwanese Americans:

1. The State Department's position that a separate category for Taiwanese Americans may cause diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China is unacceptable. The U.S. Census is a constitutionally mandated population count. It gathers detailed statistical data for various domestic purposes, such as equal access in housing, education and employment. (See: page 10) Accurate demographic data are also vital for business - and community groups to provide services for specific communities. It has nothing to do with international relations. To let a national matter such as the Census -the scientific count of American citizens- be sabotaged by the fear of how the People's Republic of China might react is un-American and totally inappropriate. This is in flagrant contradiction with the basic principles on which our nation was founded.

The Department of State, in a letter in response to the Census

Bureau's request for policy guidance in reference to listing "Taiwanese" as a separate category, asserts that they are not aware of any generally accepted basis for a race of "Taiwanese" distinct from "Chinese." (See: page 11) To make such a claim, the Department of State must be unaware of the definition of race contained in the *U.S. Office of Management and Budget Directive No. 15 on Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting.* According to Directive 15, race and ethnicity "should not be interpreted as being primarily biological or genetic in reference. Race and ethnicity may be thought of in terms of **social and cultural characteristics** as well as ancestry." Furthermore, "**self-identification** is the preferred means of obtaining information about an individual's race and ethnicity." (See: page 10)

Let me remind you again that the Census Advisory Committee itself has recommended that during the Census 2000 a separate category should be included for Taiwanese Americans.

2. Three years ago, the House and Senate passed legislation establishing that Taiwanese Americans can list "Taiwan" as place of birth in their passports instead of "China." The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service maintains separate quotas for Taiwanese and Chinese. If these two federal agencies could maintain separate

quotas for Taiwanese, why can't the Census Bureau?

3. We also strongly disagree with the additional arguments put forward by the Census Bureau. In the aforementioned letter (See: page 8) the Bureau claims that there is no space on the current form for a separate check-off box for "Taiwanese," and "an additional category may confuse respondents and may lower the quality of the data." The problem can easily be solved by slightly adjusting the design or the format. There is space on the form. This trivial excuse should not be used for not collecting important and accurate census information.

Furthermore, by stating that an additional category may confuse respondents and lower the quality of the data, the Bureau underestimates the Taiwanese American community.

In the 1990 Census, to be counted as a Taiwanese, one had to first check "Other Asian Pacific Islanders," then write "Taiwanese" in the blank space provided. Not knowing that "Taiwanese" was an acceptable option, many Taiwanese became confused and responded inconsistently. As a result, only 80,000 identified themselves as "Taiwanese" under the race question. 192,973 people marked "Taiwanese" as their ancestry and 253,719 wrote "Taiwan" as their birthplace, because these two questions had clearly listed "Taiwanese" as an option. So including a check-off box for

"Taiwanese" will improve the quality of the data, not lower it.

The position of the Census Bureau to not include a separate category for Taiwanese Americans under the race question is not consistent with the OMB guidelines which encourage the collection of more detailed information on population groups, provided that "any additional categories can be aggregated into the minimum standard set of categories." (See: page 12)

Finally, I would like to point out that 62,000 Samoan-Americans have their own check-off box. Those of Chamorran descent in Guam total no more than about 133,000. They have their separate check-off box. By contrast, the 400,000 or 500,000 Taiwanese Americans do not.

We Taiwanese Americans believe in the principle that the Census should be free from political bias and arbitrary decisions. Taiwanese Americans want to be counted. It is that simple and clear. No one -not even the Census Bureau- knows how large the Taiwanese American population in the United States is.

Accurate demographic data are vital for business - and community groups trying to provide services for a targeted community. For instance, in 1993, the Los Angeles-based General Bank attempted to access data on Taiwanese Americans as part of its research for

expansion into northern California. Eventually, the Bank had to forgo the expansion because such information was not available. In addition, the Taiwanese American Citizens League regularly receives requests for demographic data on the Taiwanese American community from church groups trying to organize their activities. Again, the Census Bureau can not provide this information. It is simply not available.

This committee hearing is the first step -but a major step- towards fulfilling the wish of Taiwanese Americans to have a check-off box for "Taiwanese" under the race question, and thus be counted.

Mr. Chairman, ranking Member Congresswoman Maloney, Subcommittee Members, I would like to thank you and staff director Dr. Thomas Hofeller for your open-mindedness in the matter and your willingness to listen.

The Census 2000 -at the start of the new millennium- provides a unique opportunity to right a wrong.

Thank you.

* * * * * *

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233-0001

February 10, 1998

Wen-yen Chen, Ph.D
President
Formosan Association for Public Affairs
552 7th Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Dr. Chen :

Thank you for your letter to John Long requesting that "Taiwanese" be listed on the Census 2000 form. We appreciate your interest in obtaining accurate data on the Taiwanese population.

The Census Bureau plans to use "Taiwanese" as an example on the ancestry question for Census 2000 just as it did in 1990, but it has no plans to include a separate category for Taiwanese in the race question. The current categories in the race question were arrived at through a comprehensive consultation and testing process to elicit the best possible information on the race question given the severe space constraints on the form. Our testing program for race and ethnic origin included two national tests and extensive cognitive research conducted by Census Bureau staff and by a Census Bureau contractor. The results from this testing program show that the current categories are understood by respondents and provide good quality data on race. Additional categories may confuse respondents and lower the quality of the data. We will, however, code the Taiwanese write-in responses in the "Other Asian" write-in line separately from the Chinese responses as we did in the 1990 census.

Additionally, the Department of State has requested that we do not place a "Taiwanese" category in the race question because it may cause diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China. I suggest that you contact the Department of State directly concerning the objections to the Department's position raised in your letter.

Thank you for your interest in our work, and if you need further clarification, please contact me on (301) 457-2379 on the issue of Taiwanese and the ancestry question and Dr. Jorge del Pinal (301) 457-4875 regarding Taiwanese and the race question.

Sincerely,

Manuel de la Puente

Manuel de la Puente, Ph.D
Chief, Ethnic and Hispanic
Statistics Branch

Recommendation 1 of 2

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENSUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATIONS MADE AS A RESULT OF THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 1-2, 1994

Recommendation 1

Place "Native Hawaiian" As A Separate Category
"Place 'Native Hawaiian' as a separate category to be grouped in the section with Eskimos and Aleuts, thereby deleting it from the Asian Pacific Islander category. Native Hawaiians are people of Hawaiian blood, descended from the original natives of Hawaii."

Census Bureau Response

The Census Bureau recognizes the issues presented by the Committee and members of the Hawaiian community. We will forward your recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) who will make the decision about the classification of "Native Hawaiians" as part of their larger review of Statistical Directive 15. Directive 15, which now classifies "Hawaiian" in the "Asian and Pacific Islander" category, provides racial and ethnic guidelines for all Federal agencies.

Recommendation 2

Continue with Listing the Asian and Pacific Islander Subgroups
"Maintain the concept of listing the Asian Pacific Islander subgroups separately, as was done in the 1990 census. The specific listings are yet to be determined."

Census Bureau Response

The Census Bureau plans to test alternative versions of the race question in the 1996 National Content Test and the 1996 Race and Ethnicity Targeted Test (RAETT). Several test versions will include specific Asian and Pacific Islander subgroups. However, several of the test versions of the RAETT will be based on recommendations from the OMB review process.

* **Recommendation 3**

If Ancestry Is Deleted, Add Taiwanese as Example for Write-In
"If ancestry is removed from the list of questions in the 2000 census, add Taiwanese as one of the examples of groups that could be listed in the write-in for the 'Other Asian Pacific Islander' category."

Census Bureau Response

We will consider the Committee's recommendation if the ancestry item is not included in the 2000 census. The Census Bureau will consult with this Committee, the Department of State, and representatives of the Chinese and Taiwanese communities on this issue.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

AGENCY: Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of decision.

SUMMARY: By this Notice, OMB is announcing its decision concerning the revision of Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting. OMB is accepting the recommendations of the Interagency Committee for the Review of the Racial and Ethnic Standards with the following two modifications: (1) the Asian or Pacific Islander category will be separated into two categories—"Asian" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander," and (2) the term "Hispanic" will be changed to "Hispanic or Latino."

The revised standards will have five minimum categories for data on race: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and White. There will be two categories for data on ethnicity: "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino."

The Supplementary Information in this Notice provides background information on the standards (Section A); a summary of the comprehensive review process that began in July 1993 (Section B); a brief synopsis of the public comments OMB received on the recommendations for changes to the standards in response to the July 9, 1997, **Federal Register** Notice (Section C); OMB's decisions on the specific recommendations of the Interagency Committee (Section D); and information on the work that is underway on tabulation issues associated with the reporting of multiple race responses (Section E).

The revised standards for the classification of Federal data on race and ethnicity are presented at the end of this notice; they replace and supersede Statistical Policy Directive No. 15.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The new standards will be used by the Bureau of the Census in the 2000 decennial census. Other Federal programs should adopt the standards as soon as possible, but not later than January 1, 2003, for use in household surveys, administrative forms and records, and other data collections. In addition, OMB has approved the use of the new standards by the Bureau of the Census in the "Dress Rehearsal" for Census 2000 scheduled to be conducted in March 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please send correspondence about OMB's decision to: Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10201 New Executive Office Building, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503; fax: (202) 395-7245.

ELECTRONIC AVAILABILITY AND ADDRESSES: This **Federal Register** Notice and the related OMB Notices of June 9, 1994, August 28, 1995, and July 9, 1997, are available electronically from the OMB Homepage on the World Wide Web: <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OMB/html/fedreg.html>>.

Federal Register Notices are also available electronically from the U.S. Government Printing Office web site: <<http:/www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html>>. Questions about accessing the **Federal Register** online via *GPO Access* may be directed to telephone (202) 512-1530 or toll free at (888) 293-6498; to fax (202) 512-1262; or to E-mail <<gpoaccess@gpo.gov>>.

This Notice is available in paper copy from the OMB Publications Office, 725 17th Street, NW, NEOB, Room 2200, Washington, D.C. 20503; telephone (202) 395-7332; fax (202) 395-6137.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Suzann Evinger, Statistical Policy Office, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, NEOB, Room 10201, 725 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20503; telephone: (202) 395-3093; fax (202) 395-7245.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

For more than 20 years, the current standards in OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 have provided a common language to promote uniformity and comparability for data on race and ethnicity for the population groups specified in the Directive. They were developed in cooperation with Federal agencies to provide consistent data on race and ethnicity throughout the Federal Government. Development of the data standards stemmed in large measure from new responsibilities to enforce civil rights laws. Data were needed to monitor equal access in housing, education, employment, and other areas, for populations that historically had experienced discrimination and differential treatment because of their race or ethnicity. The standards are used not only in the decennial census (which provides the data for the "denominator" for many measures), but also in household surveys, on administrative forms (e.g., school registration and mortgage lending applications), and in medical and other research. The categories represent a social-political construct designed for collecting data on the race and ethnicity of broad population groups in this country, and are not anthropologically or scientifically based.

B. Comprehensive Review Process

Particularly since the 1990 census, the standards have come under increasing criticism from those who believe that the minimum categories set forth in Directive No. 15 do not reflect the increasing diversity of our Nation's population that has resulted primarily from growth in immigration and in interracial marriages. In response to the criticisms, OMB announced in July 1993 that it would undertake a comprehensive review of the current categories for data on race and ethnicity.

This review has been conducted over the last four years in collaboration with the Interagency Committee for the Review of the Racial and Ethnic Standards, which OMB established in March 1994 to facilitate the participation of Federal agencies in the review. The members of the Interagency Committee, from more than 30 agencies, represent the many and diverse Federal needs for data on race and ethnicity, including statutory requirements for such data. The Interagency Committee developed the following principles to govern the review process:

1. The racial and ethnic categories set forth in the standards should not be interpreted as being primarily biological or genetic in reference. Race and ethnicity may be thought of in terms of social and cultural characteristics as well as ancestry.

2. Respect for individual dignity should guide the processes and methods for collecting data on race and ethnicity; ideally, respondent self-identification should be facilitated to the greatest extent possible, recognizing that in some data collection systems observer identification is more practical.

3. To the extent practicable, the concepts and terminology should reflect clear and generally understood definitions that can achieve broad public acceptance. To assure they are reliable, meaningful, and understood by respondents and observers, the racial and ethnic categories set forth in the standard should be developed using

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 29, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Manuel de la Puente, Acting Assistant Division Chief
Special Population Statistics
Bureau of the Census
United States Department of Commerce

FROM: Sylvia G. Stanfield, Advisor
Taiwan Coordination Staff
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: "Taiwanese" as a Possible Category of Race in Census Questionnaires

Thank you for your letter of July 22, 1997, requesting policy guidance for responding to suggestions from the public that "Taiwanese" be listed as a separate category of race in Census questionnaire forms.

Our position remains the same as it was in 1987 when Deputy Taiwan Coordination Advisor Douglas Ellice provided guidance to your office on this question.

We are not aware of any generally accepted basis for asserting that there is a race of Taiwanese distinct from Chinese.

We also believe that any listing of "Taiwanese" as a race in a Census questionnaire would inevitably raise sensitive political questions because it could be misinterpreted as official U.S. recognition of Taiwanese as a racial category that is separate from Chinese. This would be contrary to U.S. Government policy and U.S. national interests. Therefore, our position is that it would be inappropriate to list "Taiwanese" as a category of race separate from Chinese in the Census questionaire.

We hope this restatement of our position is helpful. We would be pleased to provide further information and guidance if needed.

and enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. A few comments expressed support for categories called "human," or "American"; several proposed that there be no collection of data on race.

2. Comments on Recommendation for Classification of Data on Native Hawaiians

The Interagency Committee recommended that data on Native Hawaiians continue to be classified in the Asian or Pacific Islander category. This recommendation was opposed by the Hawaiian congressional delegation, the 7,000 individuals who signed and sent preprinted yellow postcards, the State of Hawaii departments and legislature, Hawaiian organizations, and other individuals who commented on this recommendation. Instead, the comments from these individuals supported reclassifying Native Hawaiians in the American Indian or Alaska Native category, which they view as an "indigenous peoples" category (although this category has not been considered or portrayed in this manner in the standards). Native Hawaiians, as the descendants of the original inhabitants of what is now the State of Hawaii, believe that as indigenous people they should be classified in the same category as American Indians and Alaska Natives. On the other hand, the American Indian tribal governments have opposed such a reclassification, primarily because they view the data obtained from that category as being essential for administering Federal programs for American Indians. Comments from the Native Hawaiians also noted the Asian or Pacific Islander category provides inadequate data for monitoring the social and economic conditions of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander groups. Because the Interagency Committee had recommended against adding categories to the minimum set of categories, requesting a separate category for Native Hawaiians was not viewed as an option by those who commented.

3. Comments on Recommendation Concerning Classification of Data on Central and South American Indians

The Interagency Committee recommended that data for Central and South American Indians be included in the American Indian or Alaska Native category. Several comments from the American Indian community opposed this recommendation. Moreover, comments from some Native Hawaiians pointed out what they believed to be an inconsistency in the Interagency Committee's recommendation to include in the American Indian or Alaska Native category descendants of Central and South American Indians—persons who are not original peoples of the United States—if Native Hawaiians were not to be included.

4. Comments on Recommendation Not to Add an Arab or Middle Eastern Ethnic Category

The Interagency Committee recommended that an Arab or Middle Eastern ethnic category should not be added to the minimum standards for all reporting of Federal data on race and ethnicity. Several comments were received in support of having a separate category in order to have data viewed as necessary to monitor discrimination against this population.

5. Comments on Recommendations for Terminology

Comments on terminology largely supported the Interagency Committee's recommendations to retain the term "American Indian," to change "Hawaiian" to "Native Hawaiian," and to change "Black" to "Black or African American." There were a few requests to include "Latino" in the category name for the Hispanic population.

D. OMB's Decisions

This section of the Notice provides information on the decisions taken by OMB on the recommendations that were proposed by the Interagency Committee. The Committee's recommendations addressed options for reporting by respondents, formats of questions, and several aspects of specific categories, including possible additions, revised terminology, and changes in definitions. In reviewing OMB's decisions on the recommendations for collecting data on race and ethnicity, it is useful to remember that these decisions:

- retain the concept that the standards provide a *minimum* set of categories for data on race and ethnicity;
- permit the collection of more detailed information on population groups provided that any additional categories can be aggregated into the minimum standard set of categories;
- underscore that self-identification is the preferred means of obtaining information about an individual's race and ethnicity, except in instances where observer identification is more practical (e.g., completing a death certificate);
- do *not* identify or designate certain population groups as "minority groups";
- continue the policy that the categories are *not* to be used for determining the eligibility of population groups for participation in any Federal programs;
- do *not* establish criteria or qualifications (such as blood quantum levels) that are to be used in determining a particular individual's racial or ethnic classification; and
- do *not* tell an individual who he or she is, or specify how an individual should classify himself or herself.

In arriving at its decisions, OMB took into account not only the public comment on the recommendations published in the **Federal Register** on July 9, 1997, but also the considerable amount of information provided during the four years of this review process, including public comments gathered from hearings and responses to two earlier OMB Notices (on June 9, 1994, and August 28, 1995). The OMB decisions benefited greatly from the participation of the public that served as a constant reminder that there are real people represented by the data on race and ethnicity and that this is for many a deeply personal issue. In addition, the OMB decisions benefited from the results of the research and testing on how individuals identify themselves that was undertaken as part of this review process. This research, including several national tests of alternative approaches to collecting data on race and ethnicity, was developed and conducted by the professional statisticians and analysts at several Federal agencies. They are to be commended for their perseverance, dedication, and professional commitment to this challenging project.

OMB also considered in reaching its decisions the extent to which the recommendations were consistent with the set of principles (see Section B of the Supplementary Information) developed by the Interagency Committee to guide the review of this sensitive and substantively complex issue. OMB believes that the Interagency Committee's recommendations took into account the principles and achieved a reasonable balance with respect to statistical issues, data needs, social concerns, and the personal dimensions of racial and ethnic identification. OMB also finds that the Committee's recommendations are consistent with the principal objective of the review, which is to enhance the accuracy of the demographic information collected by the Federal Government by having categories for data on race and ethnicity that will enable the capture of information about the increasing diversity of our Nation's population while at the same time respecting each individual's dignity.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you. We will take a short recess, there is a vote going on now, so we will go over and cast our vote and come right back. So it will be 10 to 15 minutes before we can reconvene.

[Recess.]

Mr. MILLER. We'll go ahead and proceed. Other Members will be returning after the votes, and there's amendments on the floor. So I apologize that everybody is not here, but the Members are upstairs, and they will be returning.

So at this stage, Mr. Clawson, please.

Mr. CLAWSON. OK. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of AASHTO, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to be here and give our position on the census issues. AASHTO represents the State Highway and Transportation Departments in the 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and for some time they have been urging that the long form be included in the census. And we're glad to hear from today's discussion that will be in the 2000 census.

It's a very significant—the responses are very significant pieces of information for our members in the whole area of transportation planning, the issue of journey to work, how travel trends are changing over time. So it's very critical to us and also to the States and metropolitan planning organizations who make quite a bit of use of this data.

We worked—for the 1990 census, we worked closely with the Bureau of the Census. We have also worked with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and we were able to develop a significant amount of data out of the result—the information from the census that was very useful to the State highway and transportation departments.

So we found that the data we could provide and providing it to them on CD–Rom to let them know now about the urban area and rural area information out of the journey to work was very helpful. This information provides a whole range of information as far as place of work, usual means of travel to work, number of persons per vehicle, time of departure for work, usual time of travel and vehicles available. So there's—there's a good resource of information there.

We used this information to develop a report with other organizations. It's called Commuting in America, and we worked on that with the National Governors' Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of Regional Councils to develop an interesting and very useful book on the whole set of data that we found out of the 1990 census. So this provides a major resource on commuting patterns and how the country is changing.

Without having the long form information, the reports like that and other similar work obviously couldn't go on. It would be a significant loss of data as the MPO's and the States around the country work to develop their plans and to comply with various Federal legislation, such as the Clean Air Act and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, ISTEA.

This data will certainly be very useful as the Congress considers and approves the ISTEA reauthorization legislation. There would be a lot of followup out of that, and, again, it will be important to

have that journey to work data to analyze the trends and travel and also to comply with other legislation such as the Clean Air Act.

In 1996, there was a Transportation Research Board conference held on the whole issue of transportation data, and it included State transportation officials, and university representatives, and urban and local area representatives. And they developed a number of conclusions out of that meeting. One was that the Bureau of Census should construct a year 2000 census with a strong long form component. The second one was that this information is really a focal point for the metropolitan areas of the country and for the States, as we looked at transportation problems and try to improve them.

We also looked at the possibility of continuous measurement, which has been talked about, and thought maybe there was an opportunity for some kind of pilot program to test that and see what kind of results would come from that.

I guess to sum up, there are several reasons that the States and metropolitan areas need this data, not only for Federal legislation, but also for a number of pieces of information they need for their local and regional area.

I'll stop there. And, again, we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

Mr. Lewis.

Mr. LEWIS. My name is Marlo Lewis. I'm vice president for Policy and Coalitions with the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of CEI. CEI is a free market public policy institute. We specialize in regulatory issues, and we accept no grants from any government agency.

I would like to outline three reasons for abolishing the long form. I do not recommend immediate abolition. Too many private and governmental interests have made plans with the expectation that long form data will be collected in the year 2000. But by the year 2010, the Census Bureau should return to its original mission, counting citizens for the purpose of apportioning seats in the House of Representatives.

The first reason to abolish the long form is that it departs from the original intent of the Constitution, with the result that the Bureau's ability to fulfill its core constitutional mission has been impaired. According to a recent Washington Times article, a dress rehearsal for the year 2000 census found nearly half the population in the combined three test areas did not want to be counted.

People's willingness to fill out and mail back census questionnaires has been dropping for decades. The rate of return was 78 percent in 1970, 75 percent in 1980, and 66 percent in 1990. Part of the explanation for this trend, according to Census Bureau officials themselves, is that people don't trust the government. Many believe the information will not be kept confidential or may later be used against them, and who can blame them? The IRS also is supposed to protect the confidentiality of the information it collects, and it's supposed to deal fairly with taxpayers. Has it always done so?

The long form undoubtedly contributes to the distrust of government in general and the decennial census in particular.

In the public imagination, the census is increasingly identified with the long form, and common sense tells us to be wary of those who pry into our private business. Indeed, why would anyone nose around in my personal affairs if not to find something he can later use to my detriment? The long form is driving down response rates for the census as a whole. The government's attempt to collect information beyond its constitutional mandate is interfering with its ability to fulfill that mandate.

The second reason for abolition is that the long form is intrusive. It's a violation of personal privacy. If some stranger on the street, indeed if a perspective employer at a job interview, asks for information about your ancestry, age, income, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, bedrooms, plumbing facilities and so on, you might be inclined to tell him where to go.

Just because the person collecting such data is a Federal bureaucrat does not make the process any less intrusive. Indeed you can walk away from unwanted solicitations on the street, and you can tell the impertinent job interviewer that you will see him in court. But citizens have no legal recourse when the government duns them for facts about their private lives.

That's what the late William F. Rickenbacker found when he mounted a legal challenge to the long form. Summoned before a grand jury in New York City to explain his actions, Rickenbacker stated in part, quote, In the name of interstate commerce, some government employees think they have a right to pry the roof off of my house and watch everything I do there. Let them ask all the questions they please; and let them answer who are disposed to answer, and keep silent who wish to keep silent; that is liberty, unquote.

Indeed, it would be a useful exercise to ask where the Constitution grants the Federal Government authority to compel citizens to provide information about their ethnic origin, cars, bathrooms and the rest, and then ask whether any constitutional rationale for the long form, interstate commerce, the general welfare or whatever, could not be used to justify ever more outlandish questions about our private lives.

If we do not draw the line where the framers of the Constitution drew it, what's to prevent the government from requiring us to submit data on our cash transactions, our religious beliefs, our political party affiliations or our sexual practices?

Third, the long form encourages government intervention in the economy, social engineering and what might be called group think. The statistical aggregates generated by the long form foster what Nobel Laureate Friederich Hayek called the pretense of knowledge, the conceit that one knows enough to improve upon the outcomes of the marketplace. Armed with the long form, politicians and bureaucrats invariably discover statistical disparities in the incomes, employment levels, educational credentials and so on among men and women, black and white, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, and then without further ado, they conclude that these disparities reveal market failures, glass ceilings, unmet needs.

They then enact fiscal and regulatory schemes to remedy these alleged market imperfections in the name of social justice, and whatever good these programs accomplish, they also typically rob Peter to pay Paul, especially if Paul is a big-time campaign contributor, a mobilized voting block or a powerful Washington lobby.

No doubt somebody here will observe that the census short form also contains questions about ethnic and racial identity. And, in my opinion, those too should be dropped because the Constitution is colorblind, and the laws and policies of the United States should also be colorblind.

Thank you very much.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lewis follows:]

COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Testimony of
Marlo Lewis, Jr.
Vice President for Policy and Coalitions
The Competitive Enterprise Institute
Washington, D.C.

Before the
Subcommittee on the Census
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
May 21, 1998

Hearings on the Census

Good afternoon, my name is Marlo Lewis. As Vice President for Policy and Coalitions of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, I welcome your invitation to discuss the Census Long Form. CEI is a public interest group established in 1984 with a current staff of 35 and an annual budget of about $2.5 million. Located in Washington, D.C., CEI works to educate and inform policy makers, journalists, and other opinion leaders on private voluntary and free market alternatives to government programs and regulation. CEI also engages in public interest litigation to protect property rights and economic liberty. CEI is supported by the voluntary contributions of foundations, corporations and individuals. We accept no grants from any government agency, nor do we accept grants from any other party that would compromise the principled positions we espouse.

Mr. Chairman, I commend you for holding this hearing. The Census Long Form is a federal action that will directly touch one-sixth of the households of this country. The information collected by the Long Form facilitates and shapes scores of federal programs. The debate over the Long Form is part of a broader debate about the proper scope and limits of federal power. It is with an eye to that wider debate that I will frame my remarks.

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I. Dress Rehearsal Bombs

According to a recent *Washington Times* article,[1] a "dress rehearsal" for the year 2000 census reveals that "nearly half the population doesn't want to be counted." In 12 South Carolina counties 46% of those who received questionnaires did not respond. In Sacramento, California, 47% did not mail back their census forms. On the Menominee Indian reservation in northern Wisconsin, 60% failed to comply. These results were a big disappointment to the Census Bureau, which took unusual steps to encourage a more robust response. As the *Times* article reports:

> It [the Bureau] undertook a major advertising campaign in each test area. It mailed or delivered 460,444 meticulously redesigned census forms in multiple languages and placed additional forms at community centers. It generated news stories about the test and arranged for spreading the word in churches and schools and on local cable TV. It did another thing. In a test conducted as part of the 1990 census, the bureau confirmed that the mail response rate was higher when questionnaire envelopes contained a bold reminder that the law requires people to respond. So it used such envelopes in the rehearsal.

Actually, people's willingness to fill out and mail back census questionnaires has been dropping for three decades. The rate of return was 78% in 1970, 75% in 1980, and 66% in 1990. If the dress rehearsal is any indication, almost half will not comply in the year 2000. Part of the explanation for this trend, Census officials say, is that people don't trust the government. Many believe the information will not be kept confidential or may later be used against them.[2]

Who can blame them? The IRS also is supposed to protect the confidentiality of the information it collects, and it's supposed to deal fairly with taxpayers. Has it always done so? Has it scrupulously abstained from acts of intimidation and persecution? As our government has grown, it has become more intrusive, less accountable, and less respectful of individual liberty.[3] The Long Form itself undoubtedly contributes to the growing distrust of government in general and the deccenial census in particular. In the public imagination, the census is increasingly identified with the Long Form and its impertinent questions. Common sense tells us to be wary of those who pry uninvited into our private business. Indeed, why would anyone nose around in my personal affairs if not to find something he can later use to my detriment?

Article I, Sec. 2 of the Constitution mandates a decennial census or "enumeration" for a very specific and limited purpose – to apportion congressional representatives among the states. The Census Bureau is failing to meet its constitutional responsibility to produce an accurate head count. The Long Form is very likely driving down response rates for the census as a whole. The government's attempt to collect information beyond

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[1] August Gribbon, "Compilers of 2000 census face diminishing returns," *The Washington Times*, May 18, 1998, A12.

[2] Id.

[3] James Bovard, *Lost Rights: The Destruction of American Liberty* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994).

its constitutional mandate is interfering with its ability to fulfill that mandate. That this is happening should not surprise us. Government doesn't do many things well, and the more functions it assumes beyond its core responsibilities, the less well it does anything at all.

Mr. Chairman, I will now present three reasons for abolishing the Long Form. I do not recommend immediate abolition; too many private and governmental interests have made plans with the expectation that Long Form data will be collected in the year 2000. But by the year 2010, the Census Bureau should return to its original mission of enumerating the population to apportion seats in the House of Representatives. After arguing for abolition, I will then respond to some of the arguments made by defenders of the Long Form.

II. Why the Long Form Should Be Abolished

First, the Long Form departs from the original intent of the Constitution. The Constitution requires a census or "enumeration" of citizens (Art. I, Sec. 2). Calling the Long Form a "census" is an abuse of terminology. It is deceptive. Ask yourselves this question. Would Congress dare to require Americans to submit information about their age, ancestry, disability, education, gender, grandparents, ethnicity, occupation, language spoken at home, marital status, race, telephone number, bedrooms, kitchen facilities, plumbing facilities, condominium fees, and the like in a survey separate and apart from the decennial census? I think not. Because then it would be clear to everyone that the federal government was demanding more information from American citizens than it had constitutional warrant to collect.

One can certainly admire the cleverness of those who decided to time this intrusive exercise so that it coincides with the decennial census, just as one can admire their shrewdness in calling it the Census Long Form. But calling the Long Form the "Census" does not make it so. The Framers provided for a decennial head count and nothing more. I can only speculate about their reasons. But they surely knew that knowledge is power. Limited government must have limited knowledge about the personal characteristics of its citizens if it is to remain limited and not try to run their lives.

Second, the Long Form is intrusive – a violation of personal privacy. If some stranger on the street – indeed, if a prospective employer at a job interview – asked for information about your ancestry, age, income, marital status, race, Hispanic origin, bedrooms, plumbing facilities, and so on, you might be inclined to tell him where to go. Just because the person collecting or processing such data is a federal bureaucrat does not make the process any less intrusive. Indeed, you can walk away from unwanted solicitations on the street, and you can tell the impertinent job interviewer that you'll see him in court. But citizens have no legal recourse when the government duns them for facts about their private lives.

That's what the late William F. Rickenbacker found when he mounted a legal challenge to the Long Form. Writing in *National Review* a few months prior to the litigation, Rickenbacker declared:

> ...I shall not answer it. Indeed, I have already torn it up. Some day, when the summer satrap of the Snooper State comes to ask me why I refuse to contribute my share of statistics to the national numbers game, I shall call for my lawyer. For my house claims protection under the Fourth Amendment: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." "Go," I shall say, "and report to your Snooperiors! Tell them that I shall resist this unreasonable search! I plead the Fourth!"[4]

Summoned before a Grand Jury in New York City to explain his refusal to fill out the Long Form, Rickenbacker stated, in part: "In the name of interstate commerce, some Government employees think they have the right to pry the roof off my house and watch everything I do there. Let them ask all the questions they please; and let them answer who are disposed to answer, and keep silent who wish to keep silent; that is liberty."[5]

Indeed, it would be a useful exercise to ask where the Constitution grants the federal government authority to compel citizens to provide information about their Hispanic origin, cars, bathrooms, and the rest. And then ask whether any constitutional rationale for the Long Form – interstate commerce, the general welfare, or whatever – could not be used to justify asking ever more outlandish questions about our private lives. If we do not draw the line where the Framers drew it, what's to prevent the government from trying to collect data concerning our cash transactions, our religious beliefs, our political party affiliation, or our sexual practices?[6]

Third, the Long Form encourages government intervention in the economy, social engineering, and "group think." The statistical aggregates generated by the Long Form foster what Nobel Laureate Friederich Hayek called the "pretense of knowledge" – the conceit that one knows enough to improve upon the outcomes of the marketplace. Armed with the kind of information the Long Form provides, politicians and bureaucrats invariably discover statistical disparities in the incomes, employment levels, educational credentials, and so on among men and women, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, White and Black. Without further ado, they conclude that these disparities reveal "market failures," "glass ceilings," racial discrimination, or, at the very least, "unmet needs." They then enact fiscal and regulatory schemes to remedy the alleged market imperfections and achieve "social justice."[7] Whatever good these programs

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[4] William F. Rickenbacker, "The Fourth House," *National Review*, May 21, 1960, p. 325.
[5] "How Many Bathrooms Have You?" *National Review*, December 31, 1960, p. 399.
[6] Rickenbacker, "Fourth House," p. 326.
[7] John T. Wenders, "Statistics: A Vehicle for Collectivist Mischief," *The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty*, June 1998, p. 326.

accomplish, they also typically rob Peter to pay Paul – especially if Paul is a big-time campaign contributor, a mobilized voting bloc, or a powerful Washington lobby.

Statistical disparities among different descriptions of citizens are inevitable in every society. In a free society, they are the result of human action, though not of human design.[8] Furthermore, statistical disparities may conceal more than they reveal. For example, comparing the difference in earnings between the bottom and top quintiles from one decade to the next may create the appearance of a growing income "gap." In reality, this may merely mean that more young people have entered the workforce in the later decade. More importantly, most of the people in the bottom quintile in one decade are in higher quintiles in the next decade. They have not fallen further behind; their economic situation has improved. In addition, many people in today's bottom quintile enjoy a material standard of living comparable to that of the middle class of 40 or 50 years ago. The statistical snapshot conceals the reality of an upwardly mobile society. The alleged problem of a growing income gap turns out to be a statistical artifact, an illusion.

The mentality that views such disparities as inherently suspect and requiring remedial government action is the root of many entitlement programs, all affirmative action mandates, and numerous regulatory programs. It is the Zeitgeist, the ruling spirit, of the Era of Big Government – an era that is far from over. The Census Long Form will help perpetuate that mentality into the 21st Century.

Much recent social commentary laments the decline of a common American identity – a growing fragmentation along ethnic, racial, and gender lines. Such sweeping generalizations about America are perhaps best taken with several grains of salt. The popularity of both Seinfeld and country music would be hard to explain if America were a nation of discrete and insular minorities. Nonetheless, there is probably something to the widely shared perception that the political balance is shifting in favor of *Pluribus* and against *Unum*. What is not always recognized, however, is that social fragmentation flourishes in a politicized economy. When government manipulates the outcomes of the marketplace along "class," gender, and ethnic lines, it fosters social discord. When government allocates billions of dollars based on the kinds of demographic categories enshrined in the Long Form, it promotes "group think" and nurtures a grievance industry with a vested interest in fueling social conflict. The Long Form is part and parcel of an approach to politics that tends to obscure from Americans their common patrimony of liberty.

No doubt someone will observe that the Census Short Form also contains questions about ethnic and racial identity. These, too, should be dropped, in my opinion. America has a colorblind Constitution. We should also have colorblind laws and policies.

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[8] Wenders, Id.

III. Assessment of Arguments for Retaining the Long Form

A common argument made by defenders of the Long Form is that many federal programs explicitly mandate the use of census data, others are required to use census data by the courts, and still others depend on census data for program planning, implementation, and evaluation. To make this point painfully obvious, the Census Bureau has compiled detailed lists of the federal laws that explicitly require agencies to use census data.[9] In other words, we are to infer that abolishing the Long Form would cripple the federal government, that it would paralyze major programs and agencies.

This argument makes three dubious assumptions. One is that lawmakers would abolish the Long Form without changing the statutes mandating the use of Long Form data. Another is that in the interval between abolition and the next census in the year 2010, federal agencies would not develop alternative, non-coercive information sources. A third is that all the programs that currently rely on Long Form data advance the public interest and should be maintained in perpetuity. Mr. Chairman, this is not the place to debate the merits of particular programs. However, I would simply note that the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the Cato Institute, and other free market think tanks believe that civil society, the American family, and the U.S. economy would benefit tremendously from dramatic cuts in the size, power, and scope of the federal government.[10] Furthermore, if it really is the case federal programs cannot run without Long Form data – that is, without coercively violating the privacy of American citizens – then policy makers ought to review the constitutional propriety of those programs.

Another argument is that abolishing the Long Form would incapacitate state and local governments. In an article in which several authors pretend to evaluate after the fact the consequences of Congress' abolition of the Long Form, Dowell Meyers laments that while some information on income, jobs, education, transportation, and the like was still available from national surveys, "data at the local level simply vanished." Meyers reports that "Private vendors rushed to fill the void, but they competed on price, rather than quality. After all, without census data, how could anyone judge good data from bad?"[11]

Meyers ignores the fact that data collection, analysis and provision are huge and growing sectors of our economy. Given the importance of accurate data to marketing and investment decisions, it is unreasonable to suppose that firms would compete by selling shoddy products at cutthroat prices. Conceivably this might happen for a year or two if the Long Form suddenly dropped off the face of the earth without warning. But if local

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[9] See Bureau of the Census, *Planning for the Census 2000: Questions Planned for Census 2000, Federal Legislative and Program Uses*, March 1998.

[10] See, for example, CEI, *The Dirty Dozen: Soft Targets for Elimination at Energy, Interior, & EPA*, December 1994, and *The Baker's Dozen: More Soft Targets for Elimination*, April 1995; Scott Hodge, ed., *Rolling Back Government: A Budget Plan to Rebuild America* (The Heritage Foundation, 1995); *Cato Handbook for Congress: 105th Congress*, 1997, especially "Federal Agencies: The Abolition Agenda," pp. 145-179.

[11] "Life Without the Census by census data users," *American Demographics*, October 1995.

governments and private data providers had a decade to prepare and adjust, marketplace competition would improve quality while lowering price, as it has throughout the information services sector.

Meyers also overlooks the potential for private regulation of data quality by independent third parties. I see no *a priori* reason, for example, why former Census Bureau officials could not start the data marketing equivalent of Underwriters Laboratories.[12] Free market competition allows industry standards to evolve – government did not have to mandate the use digital technology in the recording industry, nor the Windows operating platform in the personal computer industry. Finally, I would note that some state and local governments have budgets that exceed that of the Census Bureau; collectively their budgets vastly exceed that of the Commerce Department. If state and local governments are really so keen to keep tabs on people's bathrooms and ethnicity, the private sector will figure out how to furnish such data via non-coercive methods.

Another argument is that businesses will lack the demographic and income data required for predicting consumer demand in local markets. In the same fanciful article looking back from the year 2003, Marcia Mogelonsky complains that without block-group-level data on income, supermarkets can no longer calculate consumer demand for many grocery items. "Most food shoppers live within a two-mile radius of their primary food store," she observes.[13] But this fact undermines her thesis. Just eyeballing the neighborhoods within a two-mile radius should give the local proprietor a pretty good idea of income ranges and distribution. Proxy data such as housing values – available from real estate brokers or property tax assessors – might be used. Supermarkets could pool their resources to buy marketing data on a discounted basis. If business really needs the kinds of data supplied by the Long Form, then business should pay for it, not the taxpayer. Nor should taxpayers be coerced into providing it, as they are today.

Writing in the same article, Keith Wardell argues that private purveyors of marketing data will do just fine in a world without the Long Form. "Customer lists are fairly easy to enhance without the census. For a mailer's house file, enhancement with third-party databases, such as INFOBASE, or direct surveys of customers can begin to replace information provided by the Census Bureau," he says. Wardell's fanciful retrospective is worth quoting at length:

> Prospecting for new customers may also be increasingly effective without a census. Marketing information built huge and detailed consumer databases for prospecting in the 1990s. Questionnaire programs grew significantly. These come in many variations, including warranty cards, solo mail, and ride-alongs from companies like Polk/NDL, Shareforce, and Buyer's Choice. In addition, a number of marketing information companies began combining customer files from many different mail-order companies in order to better understand

[12] On this general subject, see Yesim Milmaz, "Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform (Cato Institute Policy Analysis, No. 303), April 20, 1998.
[13] Id.

> consumers. These include Abacus, DMI's SmartBase, and Direct Tech's Z24....As these databases grew, they provided more accurate targeting information than was provided by the census long form. The use of the data provided by the census was already on the decline by the time the 2000 census became available.[14]

Mr. Chairman, I do not pretend to be an expert in the evolutionary dynamics of the data marketing industry. But common sense suggests that if Long Form data are so valuable to business, then abolishing the Long Form will confer a boon on data marketing companies. Demand for their products and services will soar. Cutting government will create private sector jobs.

IV. Conclusion

That consideration, however, is of secondary importance. To recapitulate, abolishing the Long Form will allow the Census Bureau to concentrate on its constitutional mission to produce an accurate enumeration of citizens for purposes of apportioning representatives in Congress. It will reduce government's coercive intrusion into the private lives of American citizens. And it will de-politicize or privatize the collection of data, perhaps deflating somewhat the pretensions of the grievance mongers and would-be central planners. A national debate over abolition of the Long Form would also have immense educational value, reminding Americans how far our government system has strayed from its original constitutional design.

[14] Id.

Mr. MILLER. Let me start off with a question for Professor Chen. You stated that the Census Bureau says there's going to be diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China if they included the Taiwanese question; is that right?

Mr. CHEN. That's correct.

Mr. MILLER. Why?

Mr. CHEN. Well, that's a statement issued by the Department of State, because the Census Bureau requested some sort of policy guideline from the State Department, and the State Department in their reply indicated that listing Taiwanese on the question No. 6 may cause diplomatic problems with the People's Republic of China. And at this point we strongly disagree, because we believe that the census is purely an internal affair, it has nothing to do with international relations, and that should not interfere with the domestic problem.

Mr. MILLER. Taiwanese is very separate from Chinese?

Mr. CHEN. I think the race is defined as self-identification, and we believe that Taiwanese is different from Chinese from a cultural point of view.

Mr. MILLER. That's interesting. I'm a little baffled by what the State Department is involved in deciding questions in our questionnaire.

I mean, I have concerns how many classifications we can provide on the form, but right now there's 400,000, 500,000 of Taiwanese descent living in this country. What do you base that on?

Mr. CHEN. Because based on the United States, it allows 20,000 people to immigrate from Taiwan every year since 1982. So by cumulating the amount—the number of the people coming into the United States, and we estimate the number plus the second generation, we estimate somewhere between 400,000 and 500,000, because we don't have precise number. That's what we're asking for. We need a precise number to know how many we are, where we live, and so on and so forth.

Mr. MILLER. What's your opinion about the ability to check off more than one block?

Mr. CHEN. That is a difficult issue, but I think that should let people decide whether they should identify themselves as Chinese or as Taiwanese.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Hubbard, is there any information you feel we're not getting from the census for veterans? I mean, are we getting the information that you think is adequate right now, as far as the number of veterans and such?

Mr. HUBBARD. The decisions that are made by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Labor Department for allocation of funds are based on the veterans population, which is extrapolated by the VA, by county, about a year late, and that seems to be a good way to do it now.

I believe it would be helpful in some fashion to know the number of disabled veterans in the population, because services by the Labor Department are primarily targeted at disabled veterans. Right now, those people have to self-identify when they walk into a job service office to seek employment services from the veterans staff.

A question about the disability ratings and the number—or whether or not an individual filling out a census form is a disabled veteran might be helpful.

Mr. MILLER. Explain to me what the other sources of information on veteran data is from the veterans census.

Mr. HUBBARD. The Bureau of Labor Statistics collects in their household data survey information about veterans. The problem is that title 38 right now only requires data about Vietnam-era veterans, and if you look around, some of us are getting a little long in the tooth. We need data on all veterans, not just Vietnam veterans, to properly serve the veterans population.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Lewis, on the short form, what did you feel was not needed on the short form?

Mr. LEWIS. The questions about ethnic and racial identity. It seems to me that the purpose of the census is to count American citizens for purposes of enumeration, and—I mean, for purposes of apportionment, and that, it seems to me, requires one man, one vote or one woman, one vote. Ethnicity seems to me an irrelevant consideration from the point of view of apportioning Representatives.

Mr. MILLER. You say American citizens. Do you think noncitizens residing in the United States should not be counted?

Mr. LEWIS. Well, they shouldn't be counted for purposes of apportioning seats probably, right?

Mr. MILLER. Well, I think the court ruled if you're a resident of the United States, we—yes.

Mr. LEWIS. OK.

Mr. MILLER. OK. As I said before, the long form will be part of the census in year 2000. Some of the information we can collect that is requested I think can maybe even be more effectively collected in the proposed new program that the Census Bureau is evaluating, and that decision will be a few years off. So the information you're requesting, for example, in transportation will be included in this one, though, as I said, I had a problem. I couldn't answer that question personally in the Census Bureau long form for the upcoming 2000 census.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chairman, may I clarify my answer to your question?

Yes, obviously it's good to count citizens and noncitizens. We should have a count of that. So I think the appropriate question to ask in the census is: Are you an American citizen or are you not? Take down that information, and then basing representation, however, on those who are eligible to vote by virtue of their citizenship.

Mr. MILLER. I think the courts have ruled differently from the citizenship question.

Mr. LEWIS. OK.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Dr. Chen, you indicated that the State Department—was it the State Department that gave the answer or the Census Bureau?

Mr. CHEN. Yes, I did. I think it's in my testimony. There's an attachment, the letter written by the State Department counsel in regard to the listing of Taiwanese as one of the categories in question

No. 6, and they responded by saying that it may cause diplomatic problems with People's Republic of China.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. They didn't indicate that that may have been the reason it wasn't listed 10 years ago or 20 years ago or 30 years ago?

Mr. CHEN. The partisan was formulated in 1987.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. OK.

Mr. CHEN. Yeah.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. And it was a problem then, I guess, also.

Mr. CHEN. Yes, indeed. That's why we've been trying for so many years to convince the Census Bureau to correct that wrong.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. So they were saying they just as soon not create——

Mr. CHEN. I suppose.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois [continuing]. Unnecessary difficulty if they could prevent it?

Mr. CHEN. But our position is very clear. This is pure domestic affairs and should not let any foreign power interfere with our domestic activity.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I was just looking at the form, and I guess there could be room.

Mr. CHEN. Yes, indeed. That's why we're arguing for it. They give us the excuse there is no room. And may I add, we are not asking a new question, we are asking for a check in a box in that little space. That's all we are asking for.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. OK. Mr. Lewis, you indicated a lot of things in your testimony. One of those was that the long form in some way had helped contribute to distrust of the government. Do you have any evidence to support that or any information or studies or anything that would help one arrive at that assumption?

Mr. LEWIS. I'm afraid, I don't, not in terms of hard data; a survey, for example, conducted by the Census Bureau as to whether people are not filling it out because it's too long, or it's too intrusive. But over the years I've talked to many people about the census form, and a lot of people that I've talked to say, why do they want to know that about me?

And the article in the Washington Times which spoke about the declining response rates did say that one reason why people are not filling out their forms and mailing it back is because they don't trust the government. Now, you have to ask why is that? And it stands to reason—again, I haven't—I don't have an actual survey to prove it, but it stands to reason that asking a lot of impertinent questions of people is one thing that is making people distrustful of the questionnaire itself.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. What is the purpose of the Competitive Enterprise Institute?

Mr. LEWIS. Our purpose is to develop, promote alternatives, private voluntary alternatives, market-based alternatives, to government regulation, coercive regulation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. So you would be in favor of a more laissez-faire kind of government, I would suspect?

Mr. LEWIS. Yes. And, in fact, I would have far less objections to the long form if it were voluntary, if people had the option of just saying, no, I don't want to fill it out. To me the main consideration

is not the expense of it, not the $400 million, but the fact that you are required to answer these questions.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. And do you not find any usefulness for this data that is generated?

Mr. LEWIS. I think the data is useful for a lot of purposes. I certainly am aware that there would be no way of abolishing the long form without also changing the legislation which requires agencies of the Federal Government to make use of it. I'm not proposing here that the tail wag the dog and we change the whole way the Federal Government operates by abolishing an information source which has now become a premise of Federal policy.

But I also believe that we are in an incredibly rich society, that $400 million is a lot smaller than the budgets of many cities, certainly of all the States; it's smaller than the budget that some major companies spend on marketing; and that if we gave the private sector 10 years to adjust, to prepare, and the same with the cities, the counties, the Federal Government, we would find that we would do pretty well without the long form.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, could you indulge me one additional question for the other panelists? And that is would you respond to Mr. Lewis' position that we really don't need all of this information that we're talking about gathering?

Mr. HUBBARD. Mr. Davis, I believe that at some point in his presentation, Mr. Lewis talked about government bureaucrats sticking their noses into peoples faces, or words to that effect. A lot of our members will be out there as enumerators working for anything, any time, from 6 weeks to 90 days helping a nonresponse followup, and I don't think they're bureaucrats. They're dedicated Americans. They're veterans. They served their country once. They're still on duty. They vote. They're good citizens, and all we want is an accurate count. And if we're going to spend $17 billion of Department of Veterans Affairs dollars, our tax dollars, we better know where to spend it. Right now the only source of that information is the long form.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you.

Mr. CLAWSON. From our organization, we feel that the long form provides the key data that we need in looking at issues like congestion and the deterioration of our infrastructure and things like that. With congestion, which we read quite a bit about in the papers, the long form information helps us to look at the trends, see where the problems are headed and try to make some adjustments in those areas. So it's useful data for that.

It's also very useful for the larger point of the economy. It helps us to know things about people's journeys to work, and also how the commuter patterns are impacting such things as the cars on the highway with the trucks and what impact that's going to have into delay of goods by having that mix and by having that congestion.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you.

Dr. Chen.

Mr. CHEN. Yeah, our community is very anxious and eager to participate in a census count. And again, we have no specific position in terms of long form or short form. But as long as the census

is done fairly, accurately, free from political bias, our community is ready to participate.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you gentlemen very much. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your indulgence.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Snowbarger.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I apologize to the witnesses for being late.

One comment or observation I would make, Mr. Hubbard, to your remarks, I didn't take Mr. Lewis' comments against government bureaucrats as reflecting on census takers. There are government bureaucrats around every day, and if you don't understand that people are suspicious of government bureaucrats, I think you're missing something that's pretty obvious to all the rest of us.

I think that distrust, very frankly, will affect those of your members who decide to become a part of the census count, not because of their own behavior, not because there's anything personal toward them, it's just a general suspicion.

And while I'm talking with you, I might ask how—it looks to us, from other testimony that we've had, that in the year 2000, if we've got a strong economy like we do now, there may be a real difficult time in getting folks to help with the census. Your organization obviously is stepping forward to be a part of that.

What kind of efforts have you gone to in terms of recruitment? Are you at that phase yet, or is this something that the organization plans to do in the future?

Mr. HUBBARD. We are not at that phase yet, Mr. Snowbarger. One of the other things I do in connection with my employment at the American Legion is serve as the alternate representative for the American Legion on the Census Advisory Council. In that capacity, I chair the work group on recruiting and staffing.

There will be a report about March of next year with regard to all of the issues being examined by the Advisory Council, one of which will be recruiting and staffing. We will be taking up some of those questions at the 11th and 12th of June meeting of the Advisory Council, and at that point we can probably—speaking now as the American Legion—can probably target its efforts. We will use every means at our disposal to let our membership know that this is the right thing to do; that, No. 1, fill out your form; No. 2, come help with the census.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Were you involved in the 1990 census?

Mr. HUBBARD. Yes, sir, we were.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. And you had good cooperation from your membership at that point?

Mr. HUBBARD. I was not involved in the 1990 census in the capacity I am now, so I'm not very much aware of what we did as an organization. However, I am sort of the lead person this time around and will be coordinating our communications efforts through our magazine, through our bimonthly tabloid publications, through communications with the State organizations and so forth.

We are in the process of coaching regional census offices on how to interface with State organizations, how to recruit, where to recruit, how many of our posts have post homes and facilities that could serve as training sites in gathering the data, and so forth and so on. We plan to be there in a big way.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. As you know, we can use plenty of help, and we appreciate the efforts from your organization.

Mr. Clawson, let me ask several questions here about how this affects highway and transportation. I guess, obviously, we're concerned about the quality of the census count, particularly for apportionment and redistricting, and this is an additional burden on that system at this point. I mean, I don't think anybody could deny that.

The question is that if for some reason we weren't able to rely on that long form, whether it's because it's been more difficult getting information in than we would like, or it's dropped altogether, how do you envision us collecting the information that might be necessary for particularly transportation departments and metropolitan planning organizations to do their jobs?

Mr. CLAWSON. I think in that case it would turn out that the States and regions would somehow try to collect the data on their own; the urban areas would do some kind of thing to make up for it. Although, I don't think they could do it as thoroughly as the data they get out of the census. It would take the State and local resources.

The problem with that is that by having one long form, we have data that's uniform as far as how the questions were asked and that sort of thing. If we have to go to 50 different surveys or surveys from the metropolitan planning organizations, we lose that kind of information. It's much more difficult to pull it together to look at the travel trends and to consider solutions for transportation.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. But if my city planning commission, or my State highway department for that matter, are trying to answer and address questions about infrastructure, why are they concerned about traffic patterns in Washington, DC, or traffic patterns in New York City or someplace else? What's that going to tell them?

Mr. CLAWSON. Well, to take a congestion issue again, it gives you a common base for determining how congestion is changing over time on the national level, for example. So it provides a much better comparability of the information by having one uniform set of data collected.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Well, again, I'm not sure my local officials want to say, our streets are more congested than yours, or our streets are less congested than yours. They want to get rid of the congestion. And most of that has been done, at least in my experience, at the State and local level, most of that has been done with local information and not the Federal information.

The Federal information probably figures in there more than I'm aware of at the staff level. But, I mean, in terms of trying to figure out whether your roads are congested, you drive home from work at night, and you can tell one way or another.

And, for instance, I know our school districts do an awful lot of this demographic kind of information, so they know how many schools to build and where and all of those kinds of things, but most of those are based on studies that they have done privately and not on the Federal census, which is accurate only for a very short period of time. As you get further into the decade, you've had

to adjust them statistically to keep up, and that may or may not be accurate.

Mr. Chairman, my time has expired, thank you.

Mr. MILLER. Let me thank you all for being here today, and we appreciate your comments and information you provided us for the census. Thank you very much.

We will take a very short recess while the table gets rearranged for our next two witnesses, our third panel here.

If you all would rise, and I'll swear you in.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. MILLER. Thank you. Please be seated, and let the record reflect that the witnesses have stated that they answered in the affirmative.

Ms. Samhan.

STATEMENTS OF HELEN SAMHAN, VICE PRESIDENT, ARAB AMERICAN INSTITUTE, COCHAIR, WORKING GROUP ON ANCESTRY; AND DAVID CROWE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS, STAFF VICE PRESIDENT FOR HOUSING POLICY

Ms. SAMHAN. Yes. Thank you very much.

Mr. MILLER. We're going to hold ourselves to 5 minutes, and then we will have some questions.

Ms. SAMHAN. Thank you very much for including us. I'm very pleased to represent the working group on ancestry in the U.S. census. We're a coalition of ethnic organizations and researchers and scholars from around the country who are very concerned about the continuous measurement of ethnicity in the census.

We came together about 2 years ago to make sure that there was public awareness of the importance of the ancestry question on the long form. And since then, we have developed an ever-increasing interest in educating our own populations of tens of millions of ethnic Americans around the country about the importance of the census in general and how important it is to fill it out.

I guess my most important point to you this afternoon is to say that we fully support the continued measurement of all the questions on the long form, and our particular concern, of course, is keeping the question on ethnic ancestry. We believe that measuring the demographic and socioeconomic data on our American population is absolutely essential to understanding who we are as a Nation.

Since its inclusion in the 1980 census, the ancestry question has proven an invaluable resource to our government at all levels, to policymakers and researchers, to the media, to businesses and to ethnic communities ourselves. We believe that it captures an essential component of the American identity, and that is our ethnic origin and heritage. In fact, people take so much pride in their ethnic heritage and believe it is so much a part of their American identity and are comfortable with that, that even at the suggestion that the Census Bureau might have to drop the question on ancestry, there was immediate outpouring from all over the country of ordinary citizens of all ethnic backgrounds, and predominantly European ethnic backgrounds, who wrote to us at the working group to say,

please, tell the Census Bureau that we must continue to measure ethnic identity.

The ancestry question is different from the race question in that it allows for self-identification regardless of race or nativity. There are questions on the census that measure race and measure how long the person has been here from, let's say, the foreign-born generation. But the ancestry question is unique because it allows all Americans to identify with one or more ethnic origin, and this is not duplicated or available in any private endeavor.

We believe that because a central benefit of the census is to track the growth and movement and mobility of all of our population groups, that it is necessary to maintain the range of data and the size of the sample that the Census Bureau has already recommended.

Some of the uses of ancestry data I have indicated in my testimony, and I won't go through all of them, but I would underscore that there are private sector uses, but many, many public sector uses. We know that school systems and social service agencies and local governments rely on ancestry data because there is not sufficient data from the race question to answer all of the needs of their demographic situation. We know that Federal courts have required ancestry data, because there have been instances of discrimination based on national origin, and they need data from the ancestry question to back that up. There are also many economic and research uses.

And I would like to close with the use by just citizens and citizen groups like our organization and the many, many organizations in our coalition, and that is that it's a two-way street. The identification of ethnic Americans around the country is useful for elected officials and civic leaders to be able to identify and communicate with those ethnic communities on a range of issues, both domestic issues as well as foreign affairs, but it's also imperative for ethnic communities like ours, which are mostly run by volunteers, to be able to know who or where our communities are, how to mobilize them, and, quite frankly, how to help them in the process of becoming American, of becoming citizens, and in many cases just increasing the civic involvement of ethnic Americans.

I just want to end with two examples, specific examples, of the kinds of things we learn from ancestry data. In Fairfax County, where I live, and where Congressman Davis represents me, we know that a full 93 percent of the county's population identified with one or more ancestry. But we also learned that three-fourths of that population would not have been identified had it not been for the ancestry question, because they were not identifiable in the race question. And that represents at least 47 specific ethnic communities, and as those of you who know Fairfax County and know the demographic diversity of that community, you understand how important it is for school systems and county agencies to understand the changing population there.

Another example of how important ancestry data is for communities like mine, I represent the Arab American Institute, and we know that there are often negative stereotypes that are associated, however much we might try to erase them, with certain ethnic groups. And we know the reality that often ethnic achievement and

promoting information about ethnic achievement can defy negative stereotypes. So I have given you some information about the fact that of many of the Middle Eastern communities that I work with, for example, the percentage of educational achievement in our communities is much higher than the national average. And I think that's the kind of information that we would like to continue to promote.

I just want to end by saying that the communities that are in our ethnic coalition of our working group really cut across all partisan lines, geographic lines and from all national origins, and we support the continued measurement of ethnicity on the long form. And we appreciate the initiatives that you have taken with the subcommittee, and we continue to want to work both with the subcommittee, as well as with the Bureau, in assuring the best possible count for the year 2000. Thank you.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Samhan follows:]

001580

Working Group on
ANCESTRY
in the U.S. Census

Statement of the
Working Group on Ancestry in the U.S. Census
before the
House Subcommittee on the Census
May 21, 1998

by
Helen Hatab Samhan
Vice President, Arab American Institute
Co-chair, Working Group on Ancestry

The Working Group on Ancestry in the U.S. Census is a national coalition of ethnic organizations and researchers who came together in May of 1996 to support the continuation of the ancestry question and the long form in the 2000 census.

Our diverse group is committed to raising public awareness about the importance of the decennial census and the data collected on the long form. We believe that collecting demographic and socio-economic data on the American population is essential to understanding who we are as a nation and where we are headed. As organizations representing tens of millions of Americans who relate to their ethnic origin, we are concerned in particular with keeping the question on ancestry on the census long form.

Since its inclusion on the long form in the 1980 census, the ancestry question has proven an invaluable resource to our government at all levels, to policy makers and researchers, the media, businesses, ethnic communities, and to the American public. It captures an essential component of the American identity--our ethnic origin and heritage. In fact, people take so much pride in

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their ethnic origin that even the suggestion that the Census Bureau might not collect data on ethnicity prompted an outpouring of communications to our working group from over 600 ordinary citizens from 26 states demanding to keep measuring ethnicity in the census.

Ancestry data from the census offer the only reliable picture of how the population identifies. Unlike questions that collect information on race and Hispanic origin, or are limited to the immediate immigrant generation and their children, the ancestry item allows for self-identification regardless of race and nativity, resulting in a national self-view that cannot be and is not duplicated in any private endeavor. And because tracking the growth, movement and socio-economic mobility of population groups is a central benefit of the census, it is necessary to maintain the range of data and the size of the sample proposed by the Census Bureau to ensure accurate evaluation of ethnic communities.

Some of the specific uses of ancestry data are:

Public sector uses. Social service, educational, health and other local/state agencies depend on ancestry data for outreach and needs assessments of population groups in their community. Federal courts have also required ancestry data to guard against discrimination based on national origin. However, since ancestry data are collected separately from data on race in the census, they are not utilized in connection with programs or policies related to affirmative action.

Economic uses. Businesses and corporations from manufacturers and retailers to the telecommunications and telemarketing industry depend on accurate and reliable ethnic data for market research and economic expansion. Private collection of such data would lack the objectivity, comparability and level of geographic detail provided by census methodologies.

Research uses. Social scientists, journalists and other researchers rely on census long form data to study individual population groups, demographic trends, specifically patterns of acculturation, economic and educational mobility and citizenship.

Civic uses. Elected officials and civic leaders consult ethnic constituencies on numerous occasions to solicit their feedback on policy issues and government

initiatives of concern to their communities and ancestral countries. Ethnic organizations depend wholly on ancestry data from the census to identify, locate and mobilize their constituencies to guarantee full participation in the civic life of the country.

Let me give you a few examples of how this information is useful in tracking the growth and progress of our ethnic communities:

- In Fairfax County, where I live, in the heart of Congressman Davis' district, we see from the last census that 93% of the county's population identify with one or more ancestry. We also see that 47 ethnic groups representing 3/4s of this population were only identifiable through the ancestry question. This is information that could not have been captured by the race question alone. Local agencies and schools in Fairfax County, like elsewhere, rely on the census as their only source to track the rapidly changing populations they serve.

- Another thing we learn from census data is how the reality of ethnic achievement often defies negative stereotypes. One example: Americans with origins in the Middle East have exceptionally high educational achievement. Only from the census can we know that 36% of Palestinian Americans, 41% of Turkish Americans, 56% of Iranian Americans and 60% of Egyptian Americans hold a college degree or higher, compared with the overall population which averages 20%.

America's ethnic communities are united around the critical importance of entering the new millennium with complete information about our country and its changing demographics. Knowing the basic social, economic, civic and identity factors that shape our communities, states and nation is essential. The technological breakthroughs now available to government agencies should allow us the efficiency and cost savings we need to measure more for less. At the very least, we need to maintain the long form at its present sample level with the questions included in the Census Bureau's submission to Congress on March 30, 1998.

In closing, the Working Group on Ancestry would like to commend the Census Bureau for the message of professionalism and inclusion it continues to convey to our constituencies. In all the years I have worked on ethnic measurement, the Bureau staff has always represented the best of responsive and responsible public service. The tens of thousands of Americans affiliated with our coalition applaud the Bureau for including ancestry as one of the questions on the 2000 long form. We also commend Mrs. Morella and her colleagues who have taken the lead in speaking out for the continued collection of useful data in the census and its importance to so many Americans.

This testimony is respectfully submitted on behalf of the organizational and individual members of the Working Group on Ancestry and I request permission to enter the list into the record.

Working Group on Ancestry in the U.S. Census

(Members as of May 1998)

Organizations

Advocates for the Rights of Korean Americans
Mr. Sang K. Park

American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Mr. Marvin Wingfield

American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
Mr. Neil Parekh

American Council of World Federation of Hungarians
Mr. Laszlo Papp
Mr. Sandor Taraszozics

American Folk Life Center
Mr. Alan Jabbour

American Hungarian Federation
Mr. Ferenc Kapitany

American Latvian Association
Mr. Martins Zvaners

American Muslim Council
Mr. Abdurahman Alamoudi

American Slovene Congress
Mr. Milan Kravanja

Americans for a New Irish Agenda
Ms. Rita Mullan
Mr. Brian O'Dwyer

Arab American Institute
Mrs. Helen Hatab Samhan
Ms. Maya Berry

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services
Mr. Ismael Ahmed

Armenian American Cultural Association
Ms. Rita Balian, President

Armenian Assembly of America
Mr. Tim Jemal
Ms. Arpi Vartanian

Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota
Mr. Todd Abrahamian

Armenian National Committee of America
Mr. Aram Hamparian

Assembly of Turkish American Associations
Ms. Guler Koknar

Assyrian Foundation of America
Martin Jacob, President

Assyrian Television of San Francisco
Mr. George Geevargis

Assyrian Universal Alliance Foundation
Mr. Simon Nouri

Council for the Development of French in Louisiana
Ms. Elaine Clement

Daughters of Penelope
Terry Dacles

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
Father Vertanes Kalayjian

Ethnic Materials & Information Exchange Roundtable
American Library Association
Mr. Vladimir F. Wertsman

Federation of Polish Americans
Mr. Dale Denda
Ms. Marilyn Piurek

German American National Congress
Mr. Merl E. Arp

German Heritage Society of Greater Washington DC
Ms. Jane Schleicher

German Society of Pennsylvania
Mr. Bernard J. Freitag

Hellenic American Women's Council
Ms. Christine Warnke

Hungarian American Coalition
Rev. Imre Bertalan

Hungarian Reformed Federation of America
Mr. George Dozsa, President

Immigration History Research Center
Dr. Rudolph Vecoli
Mr. Joel Wurl

Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly
Ms. Suleika Cabrera Drinane

Institute for Urban Research
Dr. Robert B. Hill

Institute of Language and Cultures of the Americas
Mr. Hernando Caicedo, President

International Demographic and Economic Associates
Dr. Samia El-Badry

International French-Creole Cultural Society
Mr. Gilbert Martin

Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh

Irish-American Labor Coalition
Mr. Joseph Jamison, Director

Irish American Unity Foundation
Robert C. Linnon

Irish Americans for Democratic Leadership
Ms. Nancy Donohoe
Mr. Bruce Morrison

Irish National Caucus
Father Sean McManus

Iron Range Research Center
Ms. Debra L. Fena

Italian American Democratic Leadership Council
Mr. Robert Blancato

Japanese American Citizens League
Mr. Bob Sakaniwa

Leadership America, Inc.
Ms. Norma Doneghy Anderson

Multicultural Community Partnership
Ms. Samira Hussein

National Albanian American Council
Mr. Ilir Zherka
Ms. Lindita Imami

National Asian and Pacific American Legal Consortium
Ms. Karen Narasaki
Mr. Gautam Rana

National Association for Armenian Studies & Research, Inc.
Mr. Manoog S. Young
Dr. Simon Simonian

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Mr. Hilary Shelton

National Association of Croatian Americans
Mr. Steve Rukavina

National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs
Dr. John Kromkowski

National Coalition for an Accurate Count of Asian Pacific Americans
Mr. Henry Der

National Council of La Raza
Mr. Eric Rodriguez

National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations
Mr. William Fugazy

National European American Society
Professor Paul Burchett (ret)

National Federation of American Hungarians
Laszlo Pasztor

National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NAFFAA)
Mr. John Meligrito

National Hispana Leadership Institute
Ms. Nancy Leon, President

National Italian American Foundation
Ms. Elizabeth O'Connell

Near East Alliance
Ms. Sarah Yeraka

NE Michigan Genealogical Society
Mrs. Jeanette Nowakowski

NY Pulaski Day Parade Committee
Mr. Tom Wojslawowicz

Office of Multicultural Services
Ms. Dorothy Gonzales

Organization of Chinese Americans
Ms. Daphne Kwok

Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission
Mr. Joseph Elias

Persian Speaking and Middle Eastern Community Services (PAMECS)
Dr. Moji Agha

Philippine American Heritage Foundation
Mr. Jon Melegrito

Polish American Congress
Ms. Sophia Miskiewicz
Mr. John Mirecki
Mr. Paul T. Sosnowski

Polish Arts & Culture Foundation
Mr. Ludomir Kitajewski

Polish Institute of Arts & Sci. of America
Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada

Portuguese American Leadership Council
Mr. Ron Cruz

Rusin Society of Minnesota
Ms. Mary Lynn Donovan

Slovak League of America
John Karch

Slovene National Benefit Society
Mr. Joseph Evanish

Society for German American Studies
United German American Committee
Mr. Volker K. Schmeissner
Mr. Joseph Fallon

The Sheridan Circle
Mr. Tom Donahue

Ukrainian Museum Archives
Mr. Andrew Fedynsky, Director

Ukrainian National Association
Eugene M. Iwanciw

Ukrainian National Information Service
Mr. Volodymyr Chornodolsky

United Polonia
Mr. Michel Pawlowski

World Lithuanian Community
Mr. Rimas Chesonis

Individuals

Dr. Ayad Al-Qazzaz
Carmichael, CA

Mr. George Bisharat
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Mr. Hayan Charara
Queens, NY

Ms. Julia Clones
Washington, DC

Ms. Rita M. Gerona-Adkins
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Dr. Paula M. Hajar
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Mrs. Randa Fahmy Hudome
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Mr. Julian E. Kulas
Chicago, IL

Dr. John Moses
Utica, NY

Ms. Corinne Mudarri
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Dr. Alixa Naff, Curator
Falls Church, VA

Dr. Eugene P. Nassar
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Utica, NY

Ms. Alice Robbin
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL

Dr. Michael W. Suleiman
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS

Ms. Linda L. Tse
Dept. of Public Libraries
Rockville, MD

Mr. Raymond W. Wangelin
Minneapolis, MN

Mr. David Wilhelm
Chicago, IL

Dr. J.W. Wright
Washington, DC

Mr. John J. Zogby
Zogby International
Utica, NY

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Crowe.

Mr. CROWE. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Miller, and members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the continued collection of useful demographic and socioeconomic information in the 2000 census.

As I hope you will see from our submitted testimony and from my comments today, we believe that the census information establishes a basic infrastructure for sound decisionmaking in virtually every sector of our economy. Without it, the decisionmakers in this country would be steering a very large ship without either map or compass.

My name is David Crowe. I'm a staff vice president for the National Association of Home Builders. I also represent the Housing Statistics Users Group on the 2000 Census Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce.

Today I'm here wearing a third hat, representing the Coalition to Preserve Census Data of which the National Association of Home Builders is a member. The very fact that my organization permits this level of involvement is testimony to the importance to the housing industry of census information.

My previously submitted written statement contains a description of the Coalition. Briefly I will just say that the Coalition is a group of broad-based industry and professional associations and individual companies representing a wide spectrum of economic sectors who share an interest in the 2000 census long form.

Today I want to make three points about how we feel about the long form and its importance. First, the decennial census is the most cost effective means of collecting vital demographic and socioeconomic data about people. According to the GAO, as mentioned earlier in other testimony, there's something like $170 billion in Federal programs funded through data collected in the decennial census every year. That's about $2 trillion over the 10-year span of the information.

It's also worth pointing out, as Congresswoman Morella did, that the long form has actually been falling in length. It was 65 questions in 1980, and 58 questions in 1990; proposed to be 52 in 2000. That didn't seem to be a cause for the increase in nonresponse.

Second, there is currently no alternative source of reliable and comparable data about our population and our housing for small geographic areas, such as towns, urban and suburban neighborhoods. The census data provides a consistent foundation or benchmark for more focused data collection efforts throughout the decade by governments at all levels.

Third, business and industry use the census data to make decisions that promote economic growth and improve the quality of life.

I would like to use the remainder of my time to give you some examples of the business use of the data. The retail sector, for instance, relies on the information to decide the location of new stores and the type of merchandise to stock. They need to know information about the perspective labor base so they know what their employees will look like. They will need to know whether there was a language issue when they open a store.

We already heard from the transportation sector.

In the housing industry, we use it for two reasons. We use it ourselves to understand what the current housing stock looks like, and what the future housing stock needs to be to answer the requirements of the constituents. But it's also used by our regulators, by the local and State governments, who have planning boards and zoning boards and water districts who need that data to understand what's the best way, what's the best place to put new houses and to put the infrastructure that supports them. Mortgage lenders and the financial markets use it to predict loan demand and also to answer underserved markets and underserved people.

Newspapers rely upon it, as was very well demonstrated by Congresswoman Maloney, to put a background to some of the current issues.

The Coalition understands that collecting information about our citizens takes resources and requires people to spend some time filling out the forms. I hope I have laid out some of the most compelling reasons why the expense and effort are worth that cost. The businesses that are represented in the Coalition take that responsibility very seriously.

Let me close with an example of our commitment in the private sector to helping make the 2000 census work better. Target Stores, a subsidiary of Dayton-Hudson and (a member of our Coalition), has several department stores in the sites of this year's census dress rehearsal. To help the Bureau promote participation in the dry run, Target produced and is using shopping bags in their stores bearing the census logo and the following unique message: "Census 2000, How America Knows What America Needs." I'm confident that this in-kind contribution on the part of Target is a good example, but a small example, of the importance that the business community places on an accurate and thorough census.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We stand ready to cooperate with this subcommittee and with the Bureau to make this the best census ever.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Crowe follows:]

Testimony of the
Coalition to Preserve Census Data

before the
Subcommittee on the Census
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight

May 21, 1998

Good afternoon, Chairman Miller, Congresswoman Maloney, and members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the continued collection of useful demographic and socio-economic information in the 2000 census. As we hope you will see from the testimony presented at today's hearing, census data is the foundation of sound decisionmaking in virtually every sector of our economy -- public, private, and non-profit. Without it, we would be trying to steer a very big ship without a compass, towards an unknown destination.

I am David Crowe, Staff Vice President for Housing Policy at the National Association of Home Builders. I also represent the Housing Statistics Users Group on the 2000 Census Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce. Today I am wearing a third hat, representing the ***Coalition to Preserve Census Data***, of which the National Association of Home Builders is a member.

The ***Coalition to Preserve Census Data*** is a group of broad-based industry and professional associations, and individual companies, representing a wide spectrum of economic sectors, including retail, print communications, housing, transportation, and marketing.[1] We have come together based on a shared interest in ensuring that the 2000

[1]The members of the *Coalition to Preserve Census Data* are: American Planning Association; The Arbitron Company; Claritas Inc.; Dayton Hudson Corporation; Direct Marketing Association; The Dun & Bradstreet Corp.; Housing Statistics Users Group; Institute of Transportation Engineers; International Council of Shopping Centers; Mortgage Bankers Association; National Apartment Association; National Association of Home Builders; National Association of Realtors; National Multi Housing Council; National Retail

census produces reliable demographic, economic, transportation, and housing information. There currently is no alternative vehicle to the census long form for collecting reliable and comparable data for all levels of geography, including small towns, rural communities, and urban and suburban neighborhoods.

The *Coalition to Preserve Census Data* respectfully urges this subcommittee and the Congress to:

1. approve the content of the census questionnaires for 2000 proposed by the Census Bureau;
2. provide adequate funding to administer the long form to approximately seventeen percent (an average of one in six) of American households; and
3. ensure that the long form is administered as part of the decennial census in April, 2000.

I want to make three points that I believe clearly demonstrate the need to field a traditional long form in the 2000 census. In discussing these points, I will address some of the primary concerns that have been raised about the inclusion of a long form in the census.

- First, the decennial census is the most cost-effective means of collecting vital demographic and socio-economic data about our nation.
- Second, there is currently no alternative source of reliable and comparable data about our population and housing for small geographic areas such as small towns, urban and suburban neighborhoods, and rural communities.
- Third, business and industry use census data to make decisions that promote

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Federation; Newspaper Association of America.

economic growth and improve the quality of life in communities across the country. However, it is important to remember that census data is not collected for the private sector, but is required by law to guide the allocation of Federal funds and implementation of Federal programs.

First, the census is by far the most cost-effective way to collect vital information that is used for policy development, planning and investment decisions, and resource allocation. The Census Bureau estimates that it will cost about $400 million to include the traditional long form in the 2000 census. That is approximately ten percent of the overall ten-year cost of the census. The $400 million figure includes the cost of printing and mailing the longer questionnaires; data capture, tabulation, and publication; and enumerator follow-up with households that don't return their census forms by mail.

Some observers have raised concerns about the added cost of door-to-door visits to households that don't mail back a long form. Fortunately, evaluations showed that the mail return rate in 1990 for households that received the long form was only about 4.5 percent lower than for households that received the short form. And because the long form was sent only to one in six households, this differential mail return rate reduced the overall return rate in 1990 by less than one percent.[i]

Census Bureau research and subsequent evaluations by an expert panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences at the direction of Congress also concluded that the long form did not contribute in any significant way to the overall undercount or, more importantly, to the differential undercount of certain population subgroups.[ii] That is because once the mail out/mail back phase of the census is over, the Census Bureau must make the same effort to visit households that didn't mail back a form, regardless of

whether that housing unit received a short or long form. Census enumerators try to collect the wider range of information from households that are in the long form sample but their minimum goal is to collect the basic information required for apportionment and redistricting.

The Academy panel also found that the collection of useful data in the census has not been a significant contributing factor to the rise in census costs. In fact, between 1960 and 1990, the number of questions on the short form has decreased steadily, while the number of questions on the long form has fluctuated somewhat but within a relatively small range. Furthermore, the portion of households receiving the longer questionnaire *declined* over this period, even as the cost of the census rose considerably.[iii] Clearly this evidence suggests that the growth in census costs cannot be blamed primarily on the number of questions on the long form or the size of the long form sample.

Following the 1990 census, Congress directed the Census Bureau to find ways to make the census more accurate and more cost-effective. As part of the effort to meet those goals, and with clear direction from Congress, the Office of Management and Budget -- working with the Census Bureau and other Federal agencies -- began a thorough review of data needs and whether those needs could best be met through the decennial census or through some other source. As a result of that review, most American households will get a census form in 2000 that is nearly 50 percent shorter than in 1990 (seven questions in 2000 compared to thirteen questions in 1990). Those households (an average of one in six) that receive the long form also will be asked fewer questions than in 1990 (52 questions compared to 54 questions), despite the fact the Congress mandated additional questions in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. Coupled with

a complete redesign of the census forms themselves, to make them simpler to understand and easier to fill out, the Census Bureau has made a significant effort to minimize the burden of data collection on the public.

So what does America get for this $400 million investment every ten years? According to the General Accounting Office, more than $170 billion *every year* in Federal program funds alone is allocated to State and local governments based on census data. That's nearly $2 trillion over the course of a decade. The cost of collecting this vital information in the census is only two one-hundredths of a percent of that amount. I can't think of another government activity that gives taxpayers such a high rate of return for their investment!

Some of the actual grant formulas may rely solely on population data or perhaps a combination of data, such as population and income (which is collected on the long form). But virtually all of the programs are developed only after careful analysis by Congress of demographic and socio-economic conditions that are charted by data gathered on the long form. Billions of dollars more in State program funds are distributed to counties, cities and towns according to census data, although no one has yet been able to tally this significant use of the data. And the use of census data by the for-profit and nonprofit private sectors to guide wise investments and community-based services is worth more than anyone can easily calculate.

Second, the decennial census is the only source of high-quality, detailed information about our population, housing, and the economic condition of our communities that is consistent in time and place. Without the long form, we would not have comparable data on labor force skills, educational attainment, income, ethnic origin,

housing stock, and transportation patterns for neighborhoods, small towns, and rural areas, all the way up to medium and larger cities, counties, and States. Census data allows us to compare the relative well being of *all* communities and population subgroups, regardless of size, at a single point in time, using standard definitions of measurement. It provides a consistent foundation or benchmark for more focused data collection efforts throughout the decade by government at all levels, service-providers, and businesses.

Some lawmakers have wondered whether the private sector could collect the information covered on the census 'long form,' since business is a significant user of the data. This is an understandable question, but the answer is rather simple. Private businesses could not possibly replicate the data collection accomplished in the decennial census.

Census data is reliable, consistent, and comprehensive precisely *because* it is gathered in the census, by the Federal government. The census is a national undertaking required by the Constitution; people are far more likely to cooperate with a reputable government agency than with an unknown company. Americans view the Census Bureau as a neutral collector of information, while they are likely to perceive some sort of bias if a private company tried to gather the data. And it would be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to create a privately-run entity of sufficient size to collect the range of information gathered in the census. If more than one private entity were responsible for collecting the information -- either for different geographic areas or covering different subject matters -- the data would not be comparable because of differing methodologies, assumptions, time of collection, and so on. Census data is collected for all households in

every kind of neighborhood and community in the country -- from the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska to the tip of Key West in Florida, from remote mountain sites in the Northwest to New York City blocks bustling with Americans of diverse ethnic backgrounds -- using the same objective standards of measurement embodied in the carefully-worded questions. The government can, and does, guarantee the absolute confidentiality of individually identifiable information provided to the Census Bureau. No private business can earn the level of trust that the Bureau has earned by virtue of its unblemished historical record of protecting the privacy of individual answers to the census.

We also should bear in mind that all of the information collected in the census is *required* by Federal statute or a Federal court ruling to implement or evaluate a Federal program or to allocate Federal dollars. If the private sector were responsible for collecting most of the data currently gathered through the census, might the government find itself in the position of having to buy this data from the private sector to meet its own mandates? I don't believe this issue has been addressed in any depth, but it's a question worth considering.

Some people also might wonder why information collected in the census couldn't be obtained from local governments, particularly data related to housing stock and community infrastructure. The fact is that administrative records maintained at the local level often cannot be compared from one jurisdiction to another because of inconsistent definitions or differing local requirements. In some cases, local records simply are incomplete. Furthermore, administrative records usually capture only one piece of socio-economic information, related to the purpose for which the records are kept. For example, records on home values do not include data on the composition of families that

reside in these homes, such as whether children or elderly people are present. Yet that kind of information is necessary to develop a complete picture of each community and its needs. The census is the one source that provides thorough, cross-tabulated information for *all* jurisdictions so that policymakers can assess relative need and target the areas of greatest need. Census data also gives local governments and other planners the solid informational foundation they need to measure change throughout the decade.

We understand that the primary (and sole constitutional) purpose of the decennial census is to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the States based on population. If the collection of data beyond the minimal information needed to support this function (along with redistricting) prevented the Census Bureau from meeting this constitutional requirement, we would share the concern of critics who advocate a "postcard" census. Fortunately, however, the evidence clearly shows that the broader collection of vital demographic, social and economic data does not denigrate the quality of the basic population count. With no other reliable or cost-effective way of collecting this information, the census is a natural vehicle for meeting the nation's data needs.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to tell you about some of the important uses of census data by businesses of all sizes. As you will see, information from the census long form isn't simply a tool that helps businesses to earn a profit. It is the foundation of careful and sound decision-making that allows businesses to create jobs, provide useful products and services that meet the needs of diverse communities, invest resources in economically-disadvantaged urban neighborhoods and rural areas, assess workforce readiness for the future, and take countless other steps that ensure the economic vitality

of our nation.

Let me give you some specific examples of how business and industry use census data. The retail sector relies on the detailed profiles of communities made possible by census data to decide where to locate new stores and the type of merchandise they will sell in those stores. What kind of labor force is available, in terms of education, experience, availability (part-time or full-time), and proximity to a potential retail site? Will the prevalence of two-income parents in the workforce require consideration of on-site daycare for employees? What level of sales volume should they expect based on income levels in the area? Will their customers have language barriers that need to be addressed? Being able to answer these kinds of questions as retail companies decide where to invest significant amounts of money helps ensure successful ventures that benefit communities.

In the transportation sector, State and municipal agencies, working with transportation engineers and providers, use data available only from the census long form to assess travel patterns and monitor the use of roads, highways, and public transit. The data allows planners to select projects based on local priorities, develop traffic congestion management systems, and identify transportation corridors needing capacity expansion. In Willits, California (pop. 4,500), planners learned from the census that more than nine percent of city residents walked to work -- a particularly large percentage for a non-college, non-Northeastern city -- while only two percent used bicycles. Consequently, fiscal resources were focused on improving corridors for pedestrians rather than cyclists, to meet community needs.

The housing industry, with which I am most familiar, relies on census data to

assess the types of homes that are needed in specific locations, as well as to monitor poor housing conditions that require intervention. Communities with growing elderly populations may need more housing suitable for people with limited mobility, while areas with higher-income populations or a high percentage of families with small children may benefit from larger, single family homes with lots of bedrooms and outdoor play areas. Builders require thorough market information before they decide where, and in what type of housing, to invest their resources. Banks and other financial institutions use population and housing data at the neighborhood level to locate and extend mortgage credit to all qualified borrowers in underserved markets.

It's not only the housing industry itself that needs census data to help it meet the needs of diverse communities. Home building is regulated by state and local governments through zoning laws, land use policies, planning boards, water districts and a host of other local agencies. These municipal government entities use census data to make decisions about the growth of their communities and to forecast future needs and conditions. Census data provides a common ground between local governments and the private housing sector.

The communications sector also relies heavily on census data to provide objective and thorough information about key policy issues and debates to their audiences. Communities rely on local media, particularly newspapers, to inform them about developments in business, transportation, education, and housing that affect their daily lives. Newspapers not only provide in-depth coverage of current activities in a local community, they often include feature articles that trace the growth and development in their communities over time. Without census data, news coverage of important

developments in a community, analyses of those developments, and editorial commentary would be superficial, at best. The marketplace of ideas conveyed through newspapers and other media -- upon which our democratic system is predicated -- would suffer tremendously.

We realize that some of the questions asked in the census may appear unnecessary, or even intrusive. But census questions are designed to gather information which, taken as a whole, provide important information about the workforce, transportation patterns, housing conditions, living arrangements, and financial resources. One might ask why, for example, the government needs to know how many rooms or bedrooms are in a housing unit. We can't very well ask people whether their home or apartment is too crowded. But the information on rooms, taken together with data on the number of people in a household, their ages, and relationship to each other, helps us identify overcrowded housing using an objective standard of measurement, and develop policies to alleviate unsafe and unacceptable housing conditions.

The same is true for questions about the time people depart for work and how they get there. When carefully plotted on digital maps, transportation planners can use this information to determine when roads and transit systems will be most crowded and identify alternative routes and modes of transportation to ease congestion. Day care providers, retailers, and banks can identify locations for vital services that are most convenient for commuters.

What are the consequences when businesses make the wrong decisions -- decisions that are not based on accurate and thorough information? In the case of the retail sector, to take one obvious example, stores close, employees lose their jobs,

buildings lose their tenants, and communities lose the vitality that successful commerce brings. In the real estate sector, poor decisions in the late 1980s crippled some financial institutions and required government intervention. No one benefits when business fails.

It is the responsibility of the Census Bureau and all data users, including business and industry, to explain to the average American why the information they provide in the census is so important and how it directly benefits their families and their communities. The businesses that are represented in the *Coalition to Preserve Census Data* take that responsibility very seriously. We look forward to working in partnership with the Census Bureau to ensure that the public understands why it is important to participate in the census.

Let me close with one example of our commitment in the private sector to helping make the 2000 census the best ever. Target, a subsidiary of Dayton-Hudson Corporation (a member of our Coalition), has several department stores in the sites of this year's census dress rehearsal. To help the Census Bureau promote participation in the dry-run, Target has printed shopping bags bearing the census logo and the following unique message: "Census 2000: How America Knows What America Needs." I am confident that this in-kind contribution on the part of Target stores will be replicated in 2000 by dozens if not hundreds of businesses, small and large, who know how important an accurate and thorough census is to the future of the communities they serve.

Census data allows the private sector to make prudent decisions that spur economic growth, create jobs, improve the quality of life in all communities, and ensure that products and services meet the needs of a diverse population. Collection of demographic and socio-economic data in the census is a sound investment that benefits

virtually all Americans and the communities in which they live.

We urge the subcommittee to accept the Census Bureau's proposed questions for the 2000 census, as well as the planned sample size for the long form, so that our nation will have a solid foundation of reliable, consistent and detailed information to guide us into the new century.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. The industries and companies that comprise the *Coalition to Preserve Census Data* look forward to working with the subcommittee to ensure a successful census in 2000 that portrays the rich tapestry of people and communities that are America's strength.

[iv]"Modernizing the U.S. Census," National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 1995, p. 119.
[ii]Ibid, p. 8.
[iii]Ibid, p. 47.

Mr. MILLER. Ms. Samhan, am I pronouncing that right?

Ms. SAMHAN. Yes, thank you.

Mr. MILLER. Do you know—this question was asked in 1990, I'm sure, by somebody else. Do you know what percentage response we get on that question?

Ms. SAMHAN. On the ancestry question?

Mr. MILLER. Correct.

Ms. SAMHAN. I believe it was above 80 percent, if I'm not mistaken.

Mr. MILLER. What about the question of people having multiple ethnic backgrounds, how do you get this kind of information? There's no room for that. How do you fill that out?

Ms. SAMHAN. I believe what the census form allows for two ancestries to be listed, so many Americans fill out—if they have two predominant ancestries, they would put those. There are some very common triple ancestries that are also measured in the data collection like Scotch-Irish-English, for example. They are able to pick up a certain number of triple ancestries. But for the most part, it's multiple ancestries up to two.

Mr. MILLER. How do you relate this information to the need of the Federal Government to collect useful information, but specifically what does the Federal Government need the information for as far as allocation of funds. Obviously we don't need it for a proportionment of Representatives, which is our only constitutional reason. What would you justify the need for?

Ms. SAMHAN. The primary justification by the Federal Government has been from the court system, because there has been a need for national origin data that is not picked up by the race question.

Mr. MILLER. Why can't it be picked up by the race question?

Ms. SAMHAN. Because there is differentiation on the race question—there are many, many ethnic groups that are not differentiated in the single race question. For example, there are groups that are identified as white, by race, but they are victims of discrimination, like the community I represent, the Arab American community.

And there are times when there has been discriminatory behavior toward people from the Arab world, but because they're counted as white, they're not differentiated. It's only the data from the ancestry question that picks that up.

Mr. MILLER. Do you have an opinion about the Taiwanese question?

Ms. SAMHAN. No, I don't.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Crowe, did you participate in the Census Advisory Board?

Mr. CROWE. Yes.

Mr. MILLER. You did. How is that working right now?

Mr. CROWE. I think it's working very well. It's a hands-on exercise to allow the people interested in the census to work with the Bureau to make advice on developing very small level details about the 2000 census.

Mr. MILLER. The Coalition to Preserve Census Data, who is that now?

Mr. CROWE. That's an organization of businesses and associations that utilize this data and felt compelled to unify and make aware our concerns about the long form. It's a wide-ranging group. It ranges from retailers, the home builders, some of the other housing institutions, the mortgage bankers, and newspapers, and some retail sales organizations.

Mr. MILLER. The long form, of course, will be conducted for the upcoming 2000 decennial census. What about the proposal for the American Consumer Survey? I mean, this is not the hearing on that subject, but, there are other ways to collect data, and this is all sample data anyway, so——

Mr. CROWE. That's true. And the American Community Survey has the advantage of having more current information. The decennial census information for the long form is extremely useful right after it's collected, but as we are right now, we're 8 years out from that information, and it does begin to get stale. We do the best we can with that information. ACS would solve at least that problem by making it a continuous collection over the 10-year period.

I suppose we haven't made an absolute decision on that, because there are other downsides, one of those being it's kind of a fragile piece of budget sitting out there for potential attack each year since it would have to be appropriated every year.

Mr. MILLER. Do you have an opinion about the ACS, Ms. Samhan? Are you familiar with that?

Ms. SAMHAN. I'm not that familiar with it, but my understanding is that the questions that are currently asked on the long form would hopefully be included on that, and so our position would be that as long as the question on ethnicity was included in the ACS, that we would be fine with that.

Mr. MILLER. Let me ask Mr. Crowe one more question. If this data is so important to you and, you know, the private sector, do you think there should be any effort to help defray the costs of collecting this data?

Mr. CROWE. I guess I would argue that the American taxpayer pays for it, and they pay for it through the business taxes that support the census. This is such a broad-based information source, it's used in such a wide variety of industries and operations, that it would be almost impossible to figure out how to allocate the cost.

It's much the same as the response to trying to impose the costs on the individual Federal agencies. How do you charge for the question on incomes since virtually everyone uses that? I see this as a basic infrastructure need to this country and not something that can be priced out to just the users, because effectively the home building industry uses it not because home builders themselves need it, but because it is needed to answer the demands of the citizens as an example.

Mr. MILLER. All right. Thank you.

Mr. Davis.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Samhan, did I understand that Arab—individuals of Arab heritage are counted as being white?

Ms. SAMHAN. Yes, sir, that's correct.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Where do we get the designation, the numbers for the number of Arab Americans?

Ms. SAMHAN. Currently the only place we get it is from the ancestry question.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. And so has that particular group indicated any special concern other than continuing to use the information or to generate the information that we are currently collecting?

Ms. SAMHAN. We have been concerned about the classification system, that is the Federal Directive 15, and we have in the past decade made proposals to the OMB about considering broadening the ethnic categories that are included within the white race question.

We, however, have a greater concern right now on the eve of the 2000 census that we have the ability to at least measure our population through the ancestry question, and we will deal with the question of classification at a later date.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you.

Do you work with Jim Zogby?

Ms. SAMHAN. I sure do.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Would you give him my best?

Ms. SAMHAN. I sure will.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. All right. Mr. Crowe, I really don't have a question, but I'd like to commend you and the business community that's a part of your coalition, because I think what you have described is one of the greatest pieces of work that a business trade group, association can actually do in terms of understanding what I call not only individual self-interest or individual business interest, but interest as related to the totality of the country.

I think that this is just a tremendous undertaking that you've generated, so I commend you and other members of the group. Whoever thought it up and decided to do it, I think they should get a good citizenship award, because I think it is indeed a tremendous effort, and I appreciate the work that you've described.

Mr. CROWE. Thank you, Mr. Davis.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Snowbarger.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Samhan, I'm looking at the form, the question on the form, and I haven't got the slightest idea how to answer it for myself, partly because the only time I ever get this question is once every 10 years on a census form, if I happen to get the long form. It's not something that I think about.

Now I understand that obviously we have ethnic communities and those who follow very closely with their ancestry, and it's not I don't have any interest in that, it's just that it's not a focus for me. And I honestly get frustrated when I have to answer a question like that, because I have to sit back and think, well, now, I know where my father came from, and I know where my grandfather came from, and on and on and on. As was mentioned earlier, frankly, you put them all together. And I need about 10 times that amount of space. I guess I'm just one of those Heinz 57 kind of guys that doesn't look back and have one specific.

So I find the question frustrating; however, you have an interest in getting that information. And I guess my question would be since this long form—the ancestry question is only on the long form; is that correct?

Ms. SAMHAN. That's correct, yes.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. That only goes to 1 of every 6 households, as I understand it. Would you like to see this information on the short form?

Ms. SAMHAN. I think the answer to that is, yes, we would like to see it on the short form. I know that there was some testing done by the Census Bureau in response to the requests by the OMB to reevaluate the way that race and ethnicity are measured. I think that the results of the tests were inconclusive, but I know that the members of our coalition would certainly support including the question on ancestry, if it were done in a sound methodological way on the short form. But it doesn't minimize the need for the questions on the long form, because without data on socioeconomic mobility, the head count from the short form is really not sufficient.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Do you think that the format that we currently use is sufficient?

Ms. SAMHAN. We are certainly anxious to have it retained in its current format. I know that one——

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Is that because you think it may be deleted, or because it's doing the best job we can do?

Ms. SAMHAN. We think that the data that are derived from the ancestry question for the last two censuses has been so valuable that we are very satisfied with the data that we have. If the data—if the question were to be added on the short form, it would just mean that every household would be able to respond to their ethnicity, rather than the sample. But we certainly believe that it's sufficient.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Crowe, let me kind of cut to the chase. I think the main question, at least in my mind, for the whole hearing, obviously the long form gives us a lot of information and a lot of data that is very interesting, very helpful even in some respects, but when we look at trying to do the best possible job that's required of us under the Constitution, which is the enumeration, I guess I'm concerned that we may be affecting the quality of that relatively simple count as opposed to the additional questions that are asked.

I think the Census Bureau has information that the return rate, for instance, on the short form versus the long form, drops off by about 15 percent when you go to the long form, obviously requiring that much more follow-up to get the information.

Bottom line question: Should we be pursuing the elimination of the long form so that we can do the constitutional responsibility first, and hopefully better?

Mr. CROWE. I think it's an excellent question, because I do think you have to question that, and I think we have answers to that. First, I'm not sure that the fall-off in response rate is that severe, and the numbers I was looking at were more like 4 percent difference between responses for mail-back response.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Let me correct myself here. I think that 15 percent was in the hard to enumerate areas. So you already have a problem area to count, and then this causes an even greater fall-off in that situation.

Mr. CROWE. You should pause and think about that. And I think what I ask back is that the information—I think I would argue, and I think most of us would agree—that the information is need-

ed. You have to figure out some way to run Federal programs to evaluate what's going on for many of the local programs to evaluate what they're doing and to give them a base so that they can go forward with basic information.

If you don't do it in the census, are you not imposing an even greater burden on the citizens for responding? If you don't do it in the census, then you've got to go back out and ask the same questions over again, because you first have to establish who these people are, how old they are and some things that are in the basic——

Mr. SNOWBARGER. You're doing it on a statistical basis, and I guess the alternative that we may have here is a count every decade that's required by the Constitution and follow-up sampling throughout the rest of the decade on these kinds of issues.

Mr. CROWE. Which is basically what the chairman mentioned in the ACS, and I think that needs to be investigated and looked at as an alternative. It just can't be done this soon. In frank terms, if it were to go to that, we would have to wait until 2010. It's too late to depend upon that method to establish that kind of information for 2000.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Well, but you could establish it before 2010 if you were doing——

Mr. CROWE. Yes.

Mr. SNOWBARGER [continuing]. If you were doing, you know, the sampling between the enumerations.

Mr. CROWE. Yes, I'm saying the same thing.

Mr. SNOWBARGER. OK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Crowe, Ms. Samhan. Thank you very much for being here today. I appreciate the information you shared with us. And the meeting will stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:50 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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