

hold, rather than asking one person for summary figures about all members of the household. We recognize that by dealing with each member of the household we are including lodgers and other persons who are not members of the operator's immediate family. However, the number of these persons is very small. Only about 3 percent of farm families have such persons living with them. We would be receptive to a suggestion that persons who are not members of the farm operator's family be excluded from this part of the census.

Census law provides that respondents must answer questions on the census form fully and truthfully to the best of their ability and, also provides assurance that any information given to the census must be accorded confidential treatment. The instructions to enumerators in the 1964 Census of Agriculture provided that if a respondent was unwilling to give the information to the enumerator, he might give it to the crew leader, or send it directly to census headquarters. In the 1960 Census of Population, we had made arrangements under which persons could supply income information directly to the Bureau if they were hesitant to give it to the local enumerators. It would be feasible to make such provisions for direct reporting to the Bureau more explicit in the next census of agriculture, if the members of the subcommittee feel that it would be useful to do so.

Mindful of the demand on the public for information, the Bureau of the Census has continually sought methods for reducing the burden without significantly impairing the value of the statistics. In accordance with the provisions of the basic Census law, title 13, United States Code, extensive use has been made of sampling. The data called for in section 11, along with sections 9, 10, 12, and 13, of the 1964 Census of Agriculture are collected from a sample which includes all farms with 1,000 acres or more, and 20 percent of all other farms. As in other censuses and in surveys, the selection of the sample farms was done in an entirely objective manner.

We are keenly aware of the fact that a census can be taken only with widespread public cooperation. This means that the questions that are asked must, on the whole, appear to the respondent to be reasonable. Regardless of the questions asked, occasional objections and criticisms are to be expected, but we have been gratified to find that the objections are very infrequent and that in most cases persons who initially objected to giving the information do provide it when the purpose and character of the census are more fully explained to them.

The Bureau of the Census has given considerable attention to the statistical use of administrative records in lieu of collecting data directly. We have also found that self-enumeration is often as effective a method for uses in censuses. We plan to study intensively the use of these methods in the next census of agriculture.

Our advisory committee consists of representatives of farmers and of organizations that serve farmers, as well as statisticians, economists, and other professional workers who make use of the data. We try to find a balance between the needs for data and the problems of the persons who are expected to supply the basic information. We would welcome the committee's suggestions on better ways of meeting these dual objectives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Eckler. Mr. Randall, would you care to give your statement before we start the questioning?