

In summary, accurate estimates of income of the farm population including income from off-farm sources, are important tools in making decisions on present and future policies for agriculture including policies regarding opportunities for all people in rural areas. The relationships between income from farming and nonfarm sources in relation to the size and other characteristics of the farming operation are important aspects of the information. Data on the important components of off-farm income separately provide a better basis for estimating off-farm income for years other than census years than would a single figure for off-farm income. The census of agriculture provides a better source for obtaining these data in the detail that is needed than would any other alternative that is now available to us. That completes my statement, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Randall. Do you have a statement, Doctor?

Mr. TAEUBER. No, sir.

Mr. GALLAGHER. One of our concerns, and perhaps you touched on it in your statement, has been the placing of a person on a farm in a very awkward position, whereas he must relate very intimate details to the head of the household or the head of the farm. We would have a suggestion to make, and that would be that if this information is required, and is legitimate-type information, which we don't question at this point, whether or not it would be possible for him to mail this information directly to the Department rather than have it handled through several people on the farm.

Therefore if you do have a lodger or someone who lives on a farm who might want to cooperate but at the same time not fully disclose his position, would it be possible that he would be able to mail his financial statement, if that is required, directly to the Bureau.

Mr. ECKLER. Mr. Chairman, that would be a possible arrangement for future censuses. As we noted, the enumerators were instructed respecting hesitation on the part of families to report in the way that we suggested. We did not have a form made available for the purpose. This could be provided, so that anyone in any case where a question was brought up, we could carry out this procedure.

We did something like this in the 1940 Census of Population, where income was first collected, and people were able to report directly. I would note that this is a little more expensive procedure, because it involves more paperwork and special handling, but we too are concerned with being responsive to the protection of individual privacy where it is a problem, and we think if there would be relatively few cases that would take advantage of this arrangement, that we can do that and would be glad to have your recommendations in that direction, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLAGHER. The Chair would like to make that recommendation, even though it might entail a little additional expense. The expense would serve a constitutional purpose in that that person who would be affected by it would be entitled to the same treatment as the head of the farm for which the money is being expended. Therefore one of the great concerns that we have is that in the interests of efficiency and expense, we sometimes are prone to violate the privacy of, as you point out here, only 3 percent of the farm families who have such people living with them.

Even if it was one person, I think that we have a right and a duty to protect that individual person. So the Chair will be very happy