

if we could make arrangements to adequately protect people who feel that it is their business, and their business only, as to who this information is passed along to, and who also have a desire to cooperate with the Government.

Mr. ECKLER. We will take that into account in planning our next census, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GALLAGHER. In the 20-percent sample which involves section 11 of the census questionnaire, were there any particular States selected for this purpose?

Mr. ECKLER. No, sir.

Mr. GALLAGHER. And if so which ones were they?

Mr. ECKLER. This was 20 percent distributed throughout all the States. This is one schedule in five, so it was not concentrated in particular areas but was intended to be the most efficient 20-percent sample we could devise, and therefore was very widely distributed geographically.

Mr. GALLAGHER. And all States were included?

Mr. ECKLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. GALLAGHER. You mentioned the review process regarding questions before they are approved for inclusion in the farm census. What consideration is given to whether an individual question constitutes an invasion of privacy? What is the extent of concern in this area?

Mr. ECKLER. I think we recognize, as you say, privacy is a relative matter. Your statement I think put that very well. And almost any question will be regarded as an invasion of privacy by a few people. There is no doubt about that. So that we know that it is not possible to devise a census which does not have an occasional objection.

One of the factors in planning any census is the experience of the past, and we tend to look at the questions which are used in the preceding census as our general guide to the kinds of information that might be considered for the forthcoming census.

Now in the case of Agriculture, where you have an economic activity that is changing quite substantially, the Department of Agriculture is even better aware of that than we are, certain types of questions which would have been included in earlier censuses are no longer needed, and certain new ones are required.

We are particularly sensitive I think to the need for one person to report on information that he has to collect from someone else. This kind of question comes up frequently in the work that we do other than our censuses or in surveys, so that if it is the kind of information which the head of the household would not know, would have to ask from nonrelated members, there is always some sensitivity involved in this.

As we pointed out here, it was a very infrequent case involving 3 per 100. We are moving toward getting a greater proportion of the information filled out by the person himself.

We are making greater use of forms which can be sent out on a mail basis and filled out by the individual, so that this we believe gives a greater chance for a response from the individual, and has the element of protecting privacy and also has the element of getting more accurate information because the individual is better able to report than someone else for him.