

So we do give a good deal of consideration to this matter of invasion of privacy, and the kinds of questions which we think will raise serious objections. Is there anything you would like to add to this, Dr. Taeuber?

Mr. TAEUBER. If I could, Mr. Chairman, just point out that this advisory committee to which reference was made also includes some farmers, and I recall very well that a number of times in the discussions in the committee some member of the committee would turn to another member of the committee and say, "As a farmer, you are going to have to fill this out. Would you be willing to do so?" The representatives from the farm organizations would be expected to bear this element in mind, if we should happen to fail.

While Dr. Eckler was talking, my mind went back to some of the advisory committee meetings, and I think if you could have been present you would have agreed that to some extent, perhaps not as fully as is desirable, but to some extent this question kept being raised formally in the discussions. Many questions that were proposed did not make the grade, in part because there was a feeling this was not a proper type of question to put in this setting of a census of agriculture where the replies are compulsory.

There was no question the information might be desirable. It was argued vigorously at times that it would be desirable. But this was over the line where the committee felt, and we felt, that we had any business to put the farmer in the position of having to answer the questions.

Mr. GALLAGHER. When you make a recommendation, and you do have a consensus of the advisory committee, is the question or the form of question subjected to a reviewing authority before the questions are made part of the questionnaire that people are compelled to answer?

Mr. TAEUBER. The determination in the first instance is made by the Director of the Bureau by delegation from the Secretary of Commerce, and then, as is true of all public use forms, in compliance with the Federal Reports Act, these are reviewed by the Bureau of the Budget, the Office of Statistical Standards before we are in a position to say that this is a part of the census questionnaire.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Then you allow the question of privacy really to be reviewed by the Bureau of the Budget?

Mr. TAEUBER. This I am sure is one of the considerations that they would raise.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I would think they would be more interested in the budgetary aspects than of the privacy of individuals.

Mr. TAEUBER. Perhaps the Office of Statistical Standards would want to respond to this directly, but that Office is much more concerned with the statistical project and the aspects of the impact on the public than they are with the budgetary aspect of it.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I know that is correct, and one of the things that worries this special inquiry, is that there is a general tendency to allow the Bureau of the Budget to worry about all sorts of things other than their statutory duties, which are budgetary, not necessarily a policymaking institution, where one would be overly concerned with the privacy of individuals.

I was interested in your statement earlier that this does not affect very many people. If it affects one or two, I think we have a great concern.