

## Oklahoma's Big Population Loss, Shown In Census, May Cost State 2 Congress Seats

OKLAHOMA CITY.—(AP)—Preliminary census reports reveal a startling exodus from Oklahoma farms in the past decade which may cost the state a population loss exceeding a quarter million people and at least one—and maybe two—seats in Congress.

Only two congressional districts have completed preliminary counts. But enough counties from all parts of the state have reported to warn state officials of what's coming.

With few exceptions each new census figure repeats an old refrain—population losses in farm areas, towns gaining population but an overall loss.

Chambers of commerce and state newspapers are exhorting every true Oklahoman to be counted. Gov. Roy J. Turner took to the radio to support this campaign.

Why can't Oklahoma keep 'em on the farm?

Federal agriculture officials, surprised by the first reports, made an independent survey. U.S. Agriculture department statistician K. D. Blood said fewer people are owning more and more farms in the state.

He said severe red soil erosion and in many cases poor country roads made it more economical for small farmers to sell out and move to other states or get good-

paying jobs in the cities.

Blood added that bigger operators have quickly bought up the small farms for "land spreads" to start stock farms or cattle ranches. Others want more land to expand their farm mechanization operations.

**Schools, Churches Deserted**  
The officials found schools, church and homes in the rural areas are being abandoned in the wake of the slow migration.

The Seventh congressional district's preliminary report showed a 29,714 loss in 11 counties in southwestern Oklahoma. Earlier, the Sixth district in south central Oklahoma showed a 9,129 loss for nine counties. Even heavier losses are expected in many eastern sections.

Seminole county for instance—

## OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



THE FRONTIERSMAN

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## Senators Drop Contempt Action Against Editor

BATON ROUGE, La., — (AP)—The Louisiana Senate has dropped contempt proceedings against an editor and publisher whose newspaper likened some senators to "trained seals" and "jackeys" of gov. Earl Long.

By a vote of 30-2, with seven members not voting, the Senate accepted a recommendation of a special committee that a jail term was "not the answer" to an editorial of June 5 in the New Orleans Item.

Under the state constitution the senate had the power to imprison publisher David Stern and editor Calyton Fritchey up to 10 days for contempt if they were found guilty.

Immediately upon acceptance of the committee report, the Senate waived its rules to allow introduction of a bill to impose a \$3,000 fine and 90 days imprisonment for failure of a newspaper to publish a reply to criticism of any person.

The measure would require newspapers within 10 days to print in the "same prominence" replies to "any attack or criticism regarding the character, reputation, morals, business or profession of any citizen in private, political or public life."

It would fix fines from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and jail terms from 30 to 90 days.

An effort to kill the bill failed 7-23.

In recommending that the jail terms not be given Stern and Fritchey the special committee said it did not intend "to dignify their positions by such action. We do not intend to create such sensa-

## Television Questionnaire University Project

COLUMBUS, O., — (AP)—Some 2,500 Ohioans who should know are being asked whether watching television causes eyestrain.

That many ophthalmologists and optometrists soon will be filling out questionnaires sent by Ohio state university's institute for research in vision.

The institute wants to know definitely the answers to these questions:

1. What effect does television viewing have on eyes of patients.

2. Have the eye specialists noticed any increase in the number of patients that can be attributed to suspicion on the part of the patients that their eyes have been affected by television?

3. Do findings of the specialists indicate television is directly responsible?

4. What recommendations are made for proper television viewing, and are special glasses needed?

The answers to these and other questions will be given to the general public and professional men, say Dr. Glenn A. Fry and Dr. Arthur M. Culler, co-directors of the institute.

They feel that in the three years television has been available in

nationalism for Mr. Fritchey, which is his only claim to fame in the newspaper field."

The committee report called Fritchey's attitude "contemptuous and arrogant." At a hearing before the committee last week Stern and Fritchey refused to retract or apologize for the Item's editorial.

There was no immediate comment from the Item on the Senate's action. Earlier Fritchey backed up the "trained seal" reference by saying, "the record of the legislature speaks for itself."

Ohio the specialists have had a chance to analyze its effect on their patients.

Answers will be broken down by age groups — persons under 10 years old, those 10 to 20, and those over 20.

## Montana Man Held On Cabbie Kidnap Charges

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho. — (AP) Accused of forcing a taxi driver to carry him 265 miles at the point of a gun, a 27-year-old Montana man was held here Friday under \$10,000 bond on a charge of kidnapping.

Chief of Police Arnold Engen said Walter Lindon Babcock, 27, of Anaconda, Mont., was arrested after cab driver Gordon Rickaby, 26, also of Anaconda, whispered "call the law" to a service station manager.

Babcock was armed with a .22 caliber pistol, Engen said, but made no effort to resist arrest. The police chief said he freely admitted having forced Rickaby at gunpoint to drive the 265 miles here from Anaconda.

The cab driver said he picked Babcock up at 4 a.m. Thursday and was told to drive to a tavern on the road to Phillipsburg, Mont. When they found the tavern closed, Rickaby said he drove on to Phillipsburg. There, he said, Babcock pulled out the pistol and told him to "keep going west."

The police report quoted Babcock as saying he had planned to hitch hike to Spokane, but that he had been drinking and had no idea when he decided to take the cab.



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once the center of booming Oklahoma oil activity—alone has lost more than 20,000. Its county seat of Wewoka lost nearly 4,000.

Okfuskee county in eastern Oklahoma lost more than 8,000 persons—5,000 of them school age children. Other oddities: Kiowa has the same population it had in 1940, Indiananoma lost one, and Guthrie—the first state capital—gained one resident in ten years.

State officials estimated before the census count started the state stood to lose one of its eight congressional seats if the population loss reached 250,000. Now Oklahoma leaders fear the loss may exceed that figure, endangering two seats.

Extent of the loss came as a surprise. Most state towns are enjoying a building and business boom and farm income has remained high in the past few years.

### Summer Events Keep OSC Campus Humming

This campus gets little time for any rest or "recuperation" as opening of summer school follows close on the end of the regular school year. The regular eight-week session starts June 19 and continues through August 11. Meanwhile the 4-H Club summer session June 13 to 23 is bringing

1800 youngsters to the campus, and the Beaver Boys State follows on June 25 for a week. Many other conventions and conferences make use of the state facilities during the summer.

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