

Do-It-Yourself Technique To Be Practiced by Census Bureau

Editor's note: This is the first of two dispatches on the 1960 census and how you'll be asked them and describing the method in which your answers will be tabulated.

By LOUIS CASSELS

Washington—UPI—The Census Bureau is going to ask you for a little help when it sets out next April 1 to count everybody in the country.

It will be the first time the do-it-yourself technique has been applied to the nationwide population count which the Constitution requires every 10 years.

Here's how it will work:

During the latter part of March, the Census Bureau will mail blank forms to every household in the nation. You will be asked to assemble on these forms the answer to seven questions about every person in your household (including live-in servants, boarders, etc.), and four questions about the dwelling in which you live.

Information

The information sought about each person will be: name, address, sex, color or race, month and year of birth, marital status and relationship to the head of the household.

The data asked on the dwelling will be: kind of unit (house, apartment, trailer, etc.), whether the occupants own or rent it, the number of rooms and the cooking facilities.

On April 1, about 160,000 census enumerators will set out to visit every one of the 60,000,000 dwellings in the country. They will collect the forms which you are supposed to have filled out in advance, and transcribe the information onto their reports.

If you haven't done-it-yourself, the census-taker will sigh in weary disappointment, draw out his pencil and proceed to extract the necessary information in the old-fashioned way, by interviewing you.

To Leave Questionnaire

At every fourth household, the census-takers will leave an additional questionnaire. If it falls your lot to receive one of these forms, you'll have to answer 18 additional questions about members of your household.

Some of these questions deal with occupation—the number of years of schooling each person has had and the kind of school attended (public or private).

You'll also have to fill in the place of birth of each member of the household; how long it's been since the family moved from one residence to another; the "mother tongue" of any member who was born outside the United States; the number of times adult members have been married; the number of children borne by adult women in the household; and military service history.

Other Questions

There'll also be several additional questions about the dwelling—its plumbing facilities; average monthly cost of utilities; and heating; when it was built; number of radios, television sets, washing machines, freezers, dryers, air conditioners and automobiles owned, and so forth.

You'll have three days to fill out this questionnaire and mail it into the local census office. The enumer-

ator will provide you with an addressed, postage-free envelope for the mailing.

If necessary, the enumerator will check back, by telephone or in person, to clear up any questions you failed to answer properly.

And what if you don't feel like answering all those questions? Well, the census taker may have to quote to you the Federal law which says that any person who willfully refuses to answer official census questions is subject to a maximum fine of \$100 or 60 days in jail—or both.

No one has ever been prosecuted under this law, which has been on the books since the first U.S. census was taken in 1790. But it's there in case any citizen should decide to get hard-nosed.

Little Trouble Expected

The Census Bureau doesn't look for much trouble of that kind, however. It has

tested public reaction to the new do-it-yourself forms in two "dry-runs"—one in West Virginia and the other in North Carolina. In both cases, a bureau spokesman said, "we got excellent cooperation from the public."

"Most people had the information ready when the enumerator called, and usually it was adequate," he said.

The bureau believes that asking the public to help will simplify and speed up the vast counting job and will also produce more accurate data.

It has found that Americans tend to be considerably more precise about such matters as age and income when filling out blanks on an official form than they are in answering oral questions from a visitor.

(Next: Ancient task—ultra-modern gadgets.)

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Grace G.—Mother should live with us.

Mrs. M. V.—My problem isn't living alone—it's lack of companionship.

Grace G.—My sisters and brothers and I are all concerned about our mother, a widow in her late 60s. After having brought five children into the world, educated us and given us a good start in life, she insists upon living alone even though she admits she is very lonely and unhappy.

We are all married and would be glad to have Mother with us. She is in good health and no trouble to anyone. We wouldn't mind her living alone if she were a little younger, but it is really a shame for her to be alone at her age.

The trouble with Mother is that she's just plain stubborn. She made up her mind never to live with her married children and she won't change it under any circumstances.

Mrs. M. V.—I have very good thoughtful children and I'm thankful for that. At least I know that I won't ever be unwanted if I'm no longer able to take care of myself, but until that time comes I want to be on my own. I may be stubborn but I decided on that a long time ago.

My problem isn't living alone. I don't mind that. It's that time hangs so heavy on my hands. I worked until a year ago when it got to be just too much for me. Now I would like to take short trips or go for an afternoon's outing and I have no companion.

I belong to our church group and the Golden Age Club, but because I'm not forward I seem to be lost in the crowd in these organizations.

The Council: Mrs. M. V. seems to have sound ideas and valid reasons for wanting to live as she does. Her children shouldn't pressure her. Their offer of a home will not solve her main problem. Mrs. M. V.'s problem is a very familiar one. Countless

widows and widowers request newspapers and magazines to put them in touch with companions. Interestingly enough, these requests sometimes come from the same small community, yet the two lonely individuals have been unable to find one another. They dream of being put in touch with some total stranger about whom they know nothing.

There is no doubt that every community is full of lonely people. Many remain lonely even after they join a club because like Mrs. M. V. they are somewhat shy about making advances, even to a person of their own sex. Some are also very set in their standards and habits and rule out certain individuals who may be desirable companions for very superficial reasons.

We can only suggest that Mrs. M. V. open her eyes and her mind. She belongs to two good organizations. There must be at least one person in those organizations with whom she could feel companionable. She shouldn't make snap judgments on the basis of the way a woman dresses or on a chance remark. She should make the effort to really know some of the individuals in the group. Then she should not let pride or shyness stand in the way of her making the advances for further friendship. She shouldn't let a rejection get her down either. Trial and error will eventually bring her to the choice of the right companions.

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MONEY MOVING WEST

New York—UPI—Not only are U.S. industrial markets shifting to the West and Southwest but the richer consumer markets are also on the move westward. A new study of per capita retail sales by the U.S. Bureau of Census shows the purse-strings are loosest in the western part of the country.

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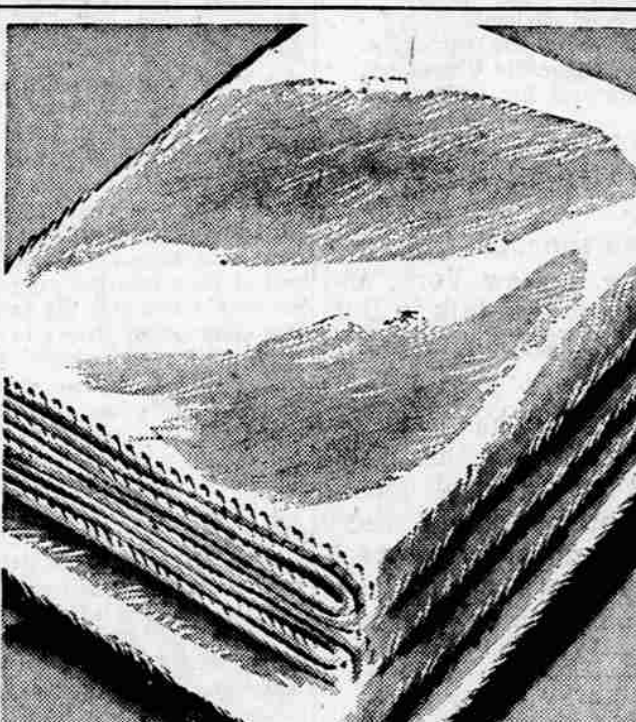


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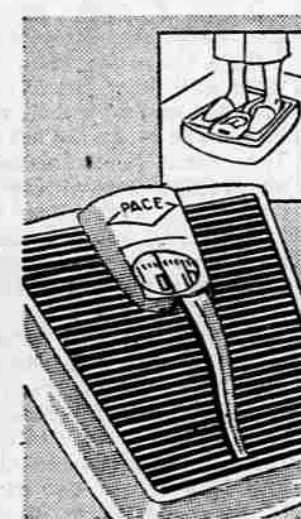
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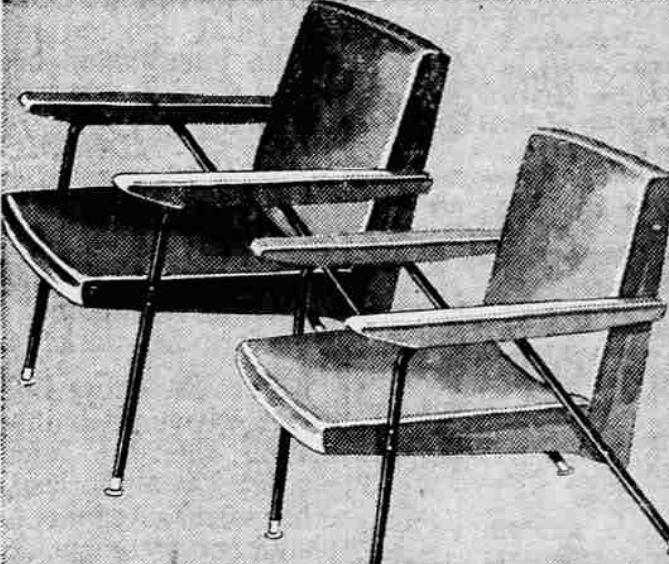
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Tomorrow Is Veterans' Day

Veterans' Day, formerly Armistice Day, has been established on November 11th each year to honor the veterans of World War I and II and Korea. May the shining example of the men and women of our armed forces inspire us anew with devotion to the cause for which they gave so much, so freely, so bravely. In their memory . . .

We Will Close Wednesday

—Veteran's Day, November 11

- JACKSON COUNTY FEDERAL Savings & Loan Association
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