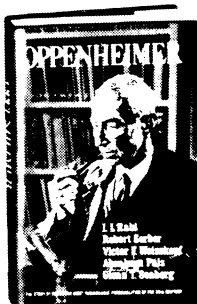


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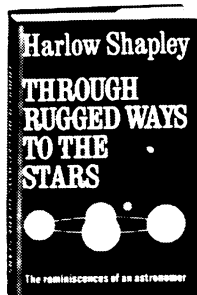
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Mid-decade census

Marjory Scarlet is to be commended for a well balanced appraisal of the census issue (SN: 6/7, p. 560). However, I would like to comment on one statement which is inaccurate to some degree.

Miss Scarlet states, "The critics object to the present census machinery, but have yet to offer another system for data gathering." That is not true. As past testimony will verify, I have strongly advocated a mid-decade census and periodic sample household surveys which would increase the reliability of data without infringing on personal privacy. Moreover, I have suggested, in testimony before Sen. Ervin's Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, that the Department of Commerce consider new ideas and concepts in the Census Bureau such as the utilization of aerial photography in urban housing quality studies.

Admittedly, as Miss Scarlet notes, there is little Congress can do at this date to change the questions on the 1970 questionnaire. However, repeal of the 60-day jail sentence and limiting the \$100 fine to all but a few basic questions can be enacted and involves little difficulty. Dr. A. Ross Eckler, the director of the Census Bureau, admitted that if this provision is enacted, the only real change in procedure would be noting new penalty requirements on instruction sheets for enumerators and other field personnel.

(Rep.) Jackson E. Betts
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Technical Information

May I congratulate you on writing a very terse and succinct article "Controlling the flood" (SN: 6/21, p. 596). Your quote from my remarks is accurate. I believe that the report should have careful consideration from many groups in the United States as well as action on the part of Government agencies, scientific organizations, scientists and engineers themselves and the commercial sector. It is my considered opinion that the report will probably receive more attention in Europe than it does in the United States if the reaction follows the pattern of that similar to the Weinberg report issued in 1963, "Science Government and Information."

Burton W. Adkinson, Head
Office of Science Information Service
National Science Foundation
Washington, D.C.

Address communications to Editor,
Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036