

The big count. The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years in such manner as they shall by law direct. These are the words in Article one, Section Two of the Constitution, which have provided for decennial censuses of the United States since the year 1790. The reason the Constitution provided for a count of the population of the state. State was to determine on the basis of population, the number of congressmen each state was entitled to have in the House of Representatives. You are participating in the 17th decennial census. Decennial, meaning every ten years, sensors from the Roman censor and official who listed the population. The first decennial census in 1790 counted a few thousand, less than 4 million people. Separate totals were obtained for free white males 16 years old and over. Free white males, under 16, free white females, other free persons and slave. Among those enumerated in this birth centers was President George Washington, Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson was in charge of defenses, which was conducted with US Marshals as field supervisors and Deputy Marshals as enumerators. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, both later President Don from the beginning and urgent broader inquiries in the census. In 1810, Congress authorized inquiries on industry. And in 1840, the agriculture census was added. In 1850, every inhabitant of the nation was listed by name for the first time. Before 1900, there was no permanent census organization. For the early censuses, a special force of untrained people had to be hired, frame, used, and disbanded every ten years. The Bureau of the Census, as we know it today, with its experienced staff of permanent census workers, it only half a century old, having been established in 1902. This 1950s, sensors will require about a 140 thousand enumerators or centers taken as they're popularly known. They will begin enumerating the nation's estimated population of a 150 million persons as of April first, in series, the sensors will take about two weeks in the country. It will take longer.

As a census enumerator, you are playing an important role in a truly big job. You're a member of a team of workers with a common goal. Accurate and complete fact about ourselves and our country. On a farm like this, known as a schedule. You will record facts about people, their name, age, sex, race, marital status, and place of birth, the kinds of work they do, whether they are working or unemployed, what kind of business or industry they're in. You will ask every fifth person you interview where he was living a year ago, where his parents were born, and the highest school grade he has attended. If he's over 14 years of age, you will find out what his income was last year, whether or not he has had military service. These are confidential facts on individuals. You cannot reveal to anyone, not a swan sensors employees. But when combined into totals, they can aid local government. Your own hometown. They use census figures to determine the need for utilities and other public services and to estimate future requirements. From our facts on schooling, local authorities may anticipate school needs for future years. From fact on income. Business firms can measure the demand for various kinds of goods and plan their production and failed programmed accordingly. As a census enumerator, you will also obtain fact on housing. The types of places in which people are living with conditions of those places, the number of rooms, the present market value, or the amount of rent paid for every fifth place that you visited. You will find out about such things as type of heating unit, type of refrigerator, and whether or not there is a radio or television set in the plate. Information on housing is essential to the planning and carrying out of housing project by private and public agencies. As a census enumerator in the country, you will be asking questions about palm, their number in thighs and the US being made of the land. The acreage and yield of grains and fruit, the number and kinds of livestock and poultry, The types of machinery and equipment in youth on the farm. It takes a lot of food to feed a nation of a 150 million people. Information about crops and livestock in the lake help the farmer and the Department of Agriculture, they get more efficient production and distribution. Now I've told you some of the things you'll be reporting on people, housing and farm. But what happens to the completed questionnaires and schedules that you will turn in? First, they are checked and

boxed. If district field officers and male two centers bureau headquarters in Washington DC. Here the information on the schedules and questionnaires is transferred by Codd punch machine operators to punchcards like this. Each hole punched in this cod represents some written fact from a schedule or questionnaire. For instance, who holds in this position, they mean age 26. Another may mean male, and so on. By the median, these cards are fed into sorting and tabulating machine, which mechanically read the holes and the cod and turn out the tables of statistics that appear in printed volume as the Census Bureau's official report. After the 1940s sensors more than 70 bound volumes of report for public 1950. There will probably be this many and more. They will represent fact you have gathered in this sense. They can be no more accurate than the answers you write on your schedule. The accuracy of census data depends on you. Now, a word from the man who is directing the 17th decennial census, Philip M.

the 17th decennial census, Philip M. Housing. I'm glad to have this opportunity to speak to you. I wish it were possible for me to meet personally with each group of the numerators. We are about to undertake together the biggest census in the nation's history. And as of now the most important, 1150 million of our fellow Americans will cooperate with us in making it a success. We and they together must see to it that everyone is counted in the census, that the information collected is accurate and complete. We can assure them all the answers they give us will be held in confidence and that they will be published only as impersonal statistics. An accurate count of each state's population is important because for the next ten years, this count will determine the number of seats for each state in the House of Representatives. An accurate count of each communities population is important for local use, for planning fire protection, school buildings, public utilities, and the night. It is also important to the local businessman is a measure of markets. Accurate replies to all the inquiries on a census questionnaire is our first important. Because of thousands of uses to which census information is put by business and government must be based on sound facts. The success of this census rests on the fullest cooperation between you, 140 thousand census takers. And those are the nation's 150 million people you interview. I know that your job will involve many difficulties. Regards I wasn't enumerator and myself in the 1930's senses. I also know that this will be an interesting and valuable experience to you, as well as an opportunity to render an important public service. The 17th decennial census is an inventory of our people, homes and farms, numbering of human assets and economic resources. This job must be done right? And a great responsibility rests on every enumerated to do his or her level best. I am sure that working together as a team, we can produce the best census ever taken.