

Las Vegas Religious Leaders Count Themselves In

Census Day Is Sunday, April 1, 1990

Representatives from the Las Vegas Religious Community will hold a rally Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 P.M. to lend their support to the 1990 Census. Various religious and community leaders will meet at Victory Baptist Church, 570 W. Monroe Avenue to inform their supporters/members on the important role they play in the 1990 Decennial Census.

"People in our congregations need to know how vital their participation is. So much depends on an accurate and complete count," said Rev. Thompson, host of the program.

One of the event's supporters and keynote speakers, Rev. Jesse Scott, said, "Each dot on the questionnaire becomes a bit of information that will produce a valuable profile of our community."

"Because the Census happens once every ten years, it's important to remember: The information we gather in 1990 will be used until the year 2000," he said.

The three points the leaders want to leave people with are, first, the census is important! Information from the census will be used for (local) political representation and allocation of federal funds and services. Second, the census is confidential! Only data will be released from the questionnaires. No one but census takers have access to your census form. All census employees take an oath of confidentiality and can be fined \$5,000.00, with up to five years in prison for divulging any personal information. Third, the census is easy!

Public Housing Tenants Are Fighting Their Own War On Poverty

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1990 -- By backing proposals to allow residents to own and manage their public-housing projects, Congress can take a major step to help the poor "fight the War on Poverty on their own behalf," according to an analysis released today by The Heritage Foundation.

According to John Scanlon, a policy analyst at the Washington-based think tank, "The grass roots movement toward tenant management and ownership of public housing is breaking the too typical cycle of crime, poverty and welfare dependency in poor communities across America." He urges support for the Bush administration's proposal, Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere (HOPE), that would give \$756 million during three years to train residents to rehabilitate and manage their units. The HOPE grant

The short form questionnaire will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and 45 minutes for the long form, which will go to one in six households.

Local census officials include Beth Turrietta, District Office Manager, Kevin Hogan, Field Operations Manager, Zanira Al-Amin and Gilbert Flores, Census Community Awareness Specialists, who will be happy to answer questions on census operations and outreach.

In addition to asking individuals to count themselves in, census jobs are available for those who are interested in a job that counts.

April first is Census Day. The 1990 Census will be the 21st in the nation's history.

program would build on provisions in the 1987 Housing and Community Development Act.

Among the examples Scanlon cites of successful groups whose services go far beyond managing their projects are these: a tenant-management corporation at St. Louis' Cochran Gardens employs more than 250 residents who perform services ranging from installing cable television to delivering hot meals to elderly tenants; tenant management from 1982-86 at Washington's Kenilworth-Parkside project reduced operating costs 45 percent, cut the number of teen pregnancies in half, reduced welfare dependency 60 percent, lowered vacancy rates 70 percent, and lowered the crime rate 75 percent; residents of Cleveland's Lakeview project reduced crime by forming round-the-clock security patrols; and tenant managers of Chicago's Cabrini-Green have cleaned up their formerly filthy and crime-ridden community and now provide such previously unheard of services as a candy store and weight room.

To date, 13 tenant groups have signed management contracts, and 72 new resident management corporations have enrolled in a new HUD training program.

Even so, Scanlon says some politicians, bureaucrats, housing officials, and labor groups with vested interests in the federally subsidized housing industry have been cynically paternalistic in speculating that tenant management will overwhelm residents, is too expensive, and fails to address the housing shortage problem.

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1990 CENSUS ASSISTANCE IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

The 1990 census questionnaire will be easy for most U.S. households to complete but as part of its efforts to ensure a complete count of the African-American population, the Census Bureau has established a variety of assistance methods, which will be available when questionnaires arrive at the end of the month at over 100 million households across the nation.

To help residents participate in this largely self-enumeration census, the questionnaire packages will contain instruction guides and a toll-free number--(1-800-999-1990)--to handle general problems or questions associated with the questionnaires.

The Census Bureau is making special efforts to provide help to the hearing impaired. Additional questionnaire assistance toll free numbers will be publicized in an "Early Alert Mailout" and other census promotional flyers, posters and brochures.

A special toll-free number for the hearing impaired has been established. Residents will access to a telephone device for the deaf can call 1-800-777-0978 to get help with their questionnaires.

Each of the telephone assistance numbers (including those printed on the questionnaires) will be staffed by census personnel from March 23 to April 15 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Other help is available at walk-in questionnaire assistance centers, which will be located in cities across the nation. Many of the centers will be staffed with bilingual personnel who speak the languages

predominant in the community. Locations for the centers will be advertised locally.

U.S. postal carriers will begin delivering questionnaires on Friday, March 23. Housing units not returning their questionnaires will be visited by census enumerators from mid-April to June. About 300,000 census workers will be making phone calls and knocking on doors to obtain the necessary information.

Children and Taxes

Q. Are children required to file income tax returns?

A. Generally, a child who can be claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return must file an income tax return if (1) all of the child's earned income (such as wages) totals more than \$3,100 (for 1989 returns) or (2) the child has any unearned income (such as interest or dividends) and his or her total income (earned and unearned) is more than \$500. Parents may be able to elect to report a child's interest and dividends on Form 8814, "Parent's Election to Report Child's Interest and Dividends." IRS Publication 929, *Tax Rules for Children and Dependents*, contains more information and can be ordered by calling toll-free 1-800-424-3676.

CHURCH

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The Council vowed to work for change through personal contacts with journalists. It called upon two United Church agencies, the Office of Communication and Commission for Racial Justice, to "raise the consciousness" of church and secular media by advocating more honest images of ethnic minority persons in news, documentary and entertainment programming.

The resolution was submitted by two United Church special interest groups, United Black Christians and Ministers for Racial and Social Justice.

In other matters, the Executive Council instructed the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Sherry, the president of the United Church of Christ, to send greetings to Namibia's President Sam Nujoma on the celebration of that country's independence from South Africa. The letter to Nujoma acknowledged the "decades of oppression and domination" Namibia had been under and said, "your new nation has emerged as a beacon of hope for liberty, justice and the common good."

The 1.6-million-member United Church of Christ is a 1957 union of Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Its Executive Council acts in behalf of the denomination's highest deliberative body, the General Synod, between the Synod's biennial meetings.

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