

House passes compromise census review bill, Senate next

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation designed to improve the accuracy of the census by letting local officials challenge the count before it is finalized faces an uncertain future in the Senate after its passage by the House.

Republicans say the bill will prevent a repeat of the error-plagued 1990 census, because local officials know their communities best and can find the mistakes.

But Democrats argued Wednesday that the true intent was to block the Census Bureau from using a scientific method known as statistical sampling.

The House voted 223-206 in favor of the bill. Four Democrats joined 219 Republicans in support of the measure.

Rep. Constance Morella, R-Md., voted against the bill, along with 204 Democrats and one independent.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said the Constitution requires that every person be counted, "not estimated, not

guessed at and not eliminated because you didn't fit in somebody's statistical model."

The census, conducted every 10 years, has become politically volatile in recent months between Republicans, who hold a slim 222-211 edge in the House, and Democrats, who are angling to win it back. There is one vacancy and one independent.

The 435 House seats are redistributed based on population growth and shifts detected by the census, which also is used to direct the flow of billions of dollars in federal funds to congressional districts.

"It is important that we allow communities to add people if they were mistakenly missed," said Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House census panel. "That's all that this is about."

Democrats said the nine-week local review program would cut into the time census officials plan to spend using sampling to adjust for undercounts.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., said the 1990 census missed 8.4 million people — mostly minorities and poor people living in urban and rural areas — and counted 4.4 million people twice, most of whom were white suburbanites.

"We know what the last census gave us," she said. "We should let the Census Bureau correct the undercount and give us an accurate count."

Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt said the review program, used by some local governments in the 1990 count, would do little to improve the census. Local officials are helping the bureau update its address files before the count begins on April 1, 2000, which he said will be more effective.

Prewitt's boss, Commerce Secretary William Daley, said Wednesday he would recommend that President Clinton veto the bill if it passes the Senate.

Senators aren't affected by the census;

each state gets two senators, regardless of its population.

The Clinton administration had hoped to use statistical sampling to improve the count. But congressional infighting led to a Supreme Court ruling in January that a count based on sampling cannot be used to reallocate House seats.

The court, however, said a figure produced by sampling could be used by states to redraw congressional district lines and determine federal aid levels.

As a result, the bureau plans to produce two census numbers based on:

— A traditional door-to-door counting of heads, to determine how many House seats each state gets for the next decade. The deadline for completing this is Dec. 31, 2000.

— A statistical sample, or survey of 300,000 households, to figure out who was missed and produce a more accurate count. The deadline is April 1, 2001.

Producer

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parents, he began taking lessons at 5 and later sang in the choir at the Evangelical Fellowship Church in Pleasantville just outside Atlantic City, where his father is pastor.

"When I was 6 and 7, I was singing in church and tap-dancing at parties. Wherever there was a crowd, I was entertaining. I just felt I had to put on a show. It grew out of that. When I turned 13, I got more into production

and not being in front of everybody," he said.

Why producing instead of performing?

"It gives you the chance to express yourself more. I get to do what I want to do. I get to make songs I believe in, whereas artists have to do what people tell them to do," he said.

At 15, he recorded a Christian rap album. At 17, he signed a worldwide publishing deal with EMI Music Publishing and

remixed Vanessa Williams' 1995 hit, "The Way That You Love."

Then he produced the 1996 debut of singer Gina Thompson. A year later, he produced Blige's "I Can Love You," which hit No. 2 on the rhythm and blues charts.

Though he's an expert at sound, Jerkins says today's music makers focus too much on technology and not enough on substance. He wants to replicate the influence of legendary producers and

songwriters like Quincy Jones and Gamble & Huff.

In the studio, he uses string-heavy orchestration and what he calls "pretty sounds" to set the mood.

"I'm trying to bring it back to emotion. I want people to say, 'I wanted to cry when I heard this song.' Everybody wants to hear a beat and a bass line, but I want to bring this back," he said.

Jerkins recently signed a multimillion-dollar deal with Sony Music Entertainment

Corp. and established his own company, Darkchild Entertainment.

"Rodney is one of the most gifted and sought-after young producers working," said Sony Music Entertainment chairman Thomas Mottola. "This is just the beginning for Rodney. His creative horizons are unlimited."

Jerkins has spread his wealth. When he was 18, he bought his parents a new house. He owns nine cars and

bought cars for brother Fred and his two sisters. But he still lives with his parents when he's not working in New York or Los Angeles.

He hasn't forgotten his roots, either. After returning from the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles earlier this month, he threw a bash for about 250 friends and family members at Trump Marina Hotel Casino in Atlantic City.

Then it was back to California to work with the King of Pop.

Gary Reese has lived in Ward 3 for 30 years. He's staked the success and well-being of his home, family and business in Ward 3. It is with this personal and professional commitment that he's served as Ward 3's City Councilman for the past four years.

When Gary Reese received your vote of confidence four years ago, he immediately went to work with his "Neighborhood Agenda"...a commitment to always think, work and vote in the best interests of the people of Ward 3. It was a promise to work hard to preserve our neighborhoods by cleaning up graffiti and vacant lots, curbing crime and supporting Metro, repairing our city streets, and providing quality service and recreational facilities for all residents, young and old.

Four years later, and Councilman Reese's "Neighborhood Agenda" is working. Thanks to the people of Las Vegas, tremendous progress has been made!

CITY STREETS & TRAFFIC

- Implemented a Traffic Management program
- Made neighborhoods safer with installation of speed bumps
- Repaved dozens of neighborhood streets
- Installation of numerous sidewalks and streetlights

NEIGHBORHOODS

- Organized 166 neighborhood clean-ups
- Initiated the Neighborhood Partners Fund Program
- Organized Neighborhood Association Workshops
- Held nearly 40 neighborhood meetings in Ward 3
- Started Neighborhood Renaissance projects
- Formed 14 neighborhood associations
- Promoted single-family and multi-family rehab

CRIME

- Personally funded an additional Metro bike patrol
- Provided safer routes for our school children
- Worked to increase neighborhood crime reporting
- Installation of street lights
- Initiated program to stop illegal selling of vehicles on vacant lots.



RE-ELECT
REESE
CITY COUNCIL
Putting Las Vegas First!

GRAFFITI

- Completed over 7,000 graffiti clean-up projects the last two years
- Initiated 24-hour Graffiti Hotline
- Started the Adopt-A-Block program, so residents can patrol their own neighborhoods and report graffiti immediately
- With new efficient reporting program, recorded complaints have risen from under 10,000 annually three years ago to almost 50,000 in 1998.
- Promoted graffiti reward ordinance which pays reward to citizens who provide information that leads to the arrest and conviction of any person who applies graffiti

COMMUNITY

- Completion of Rafael Rivera Community Center and baseball and soccer fields.
- Major expansion of Doolittle Senior Center
- Municipal Pool renovation
- Improvements to Doolittle Community Center ball fields
- Freedom Park and Lubertha Johnson Park upgrades & improvements
- Provided land for VA hospital, post office and middle school
- Developed Las Vegas Business Park to assist neighborhood businesses

EARLY VOTING APRIL 17 TO APRIL 30

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PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, MAY 4