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**South, West states lead nation's growth**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Southern and Western states accounted for virtually all of the population growth in the United States last year, the government reported Tuesday.

The shrinkage in the population of the Northeast, meanwhile, continued.

The Census Bureau's latest state population estimates showed the nation's growth rate as of last July had slowed to seven-tenths of 1 per cent a year, compared to a 1.1 per cent average annual growth rate for the previous three years since the 1970 census. The preliminary figures pegged total population at 211,390,000.

Among the four U.S. geographic areas, the South and West both grew by 1.6 per cent in the most recent year, while the North Central region grew only one-tenth of one per cent. The North Central

region had been growing at a rate of five-tenths of one per cent the previous three years.

In the fourth geographic area, the population of the Northeastern states—New England plus New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania—declined by two-tenths of one per cent, about half the rate of decrease for the previous year.

Six states and the District of Columbia showed declines in population for the most recent year.

The drop of 30,000 in Rhode Island to a total of 937,000 was attributed directly to the phasing out of the huge Newport Naval Base. It was the first decline since the 1970 census for Rhode Island.

Continuing steady declines since the census were New York, which dropped from 18.2 million to 18.1 million, and the District of Columbia, which fell by 11,000 to 723,000.

Continuing trends initiated with last year's projections were Pennsylvania, which dropped by 27,000 to 11.8 million; Ohio, which dropped by 6,000 to 10.7 million; Illinois, which dropped by 45,000 to 11.1 million, and Iowa, which dropped by 8,000 to 2.86 million.

Florida surpassed Arizona as the fastest growing state, jumping by 4.5 per cent in the past year to a population of 8.1 million. Arizona, which had been growing by an average of 5.7 per cent a year since the census, slacked off to a 3.9 per cent growth rate.

Florida's increase of 1.3 million people was also the largest absolute increase of any state. Arizona's total population stands at 2.15 million.

Nevada also outpaced Arizona, registering a 4 per cent growth rate in the most recent year to increase its population to 573,000.

Colorado, which had been the fourth-fastest growing state with an average annual growth rate of 3.9 per cent in the previous three years, dropped off to a 1.1 per cent growth rate.

California, the nation's most populous state, increased at a rate of 1.2 per cent, about the same as in recent years.

**Illness, rain slow state campaigning**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A drizzle in the High Plains dampened Republican Jim Granberry's campaign for governor Tuesday, and Gov. Dolph Briscoe maintained a sickbed vigil for his mother in Uvalde.

Granberry noted at an Abilene news conference that Secretary of State Mark White was subbing for Briscoe at the meeting of the Texas Manufacturers Association in Fort Worth Thursday and said:

"I regret very much the illness of Mr. Briscoe's mother, but I believe there should be others available to speak for him when necessary because the state's chief elections officer has no business whatsoever being involved in partisan campaigns."

Briscoe cancelled a 10-city campaign tour because of what his headquarters said was the critical

illness of his mother, Mrs. Dolph Briscoe Sr., 86, who was hospitalized.

Granberry had to cancel a talk at Snyder as bad weather forced his plane to stay on the ground at Lubbock.

Republican Nick Rowe told a Capitol news conference that his opponent for state comptroller, Bob Bullock, Democrat, "has been hanging around the Capitol for a number of years looking for a spot to play politics at the taxpayer's expense."

As comptroller, Rowe said he would ask the legislature to reconsider a "Little Hoover Commission" to keep tabs on state spending, a proposed commission the legislature has rejected numerous times. "Should it again fail," Rowe said, "I believe it would then be the duty of the comptroller to begin similar studies and audits to determine if we can better administer state spending."

Another Republican, Bob Holt, candidate for state treasurer, told campaign supporters in his hometown of Amarillo that the reelection of Jesse James would cost taxpayers a minimum of \$250 million.

"That's a conservative estimate of the difference between what we are earning on public funds and what we ought to be earning over a four-year period," Holt said.

Holt said Texas was losing interest because public funds can be invested only in banks—"It's been that way for 33 years because Jesse James and the banks want it that way."

State Agriculture Commissioner John White, a candidate for reelection, told the Junior League of Houston that the price of farm equipment is soaring—by as much as 150 per cent for fertilizer—when the farmer's "own sales prices are falling."

"The American farmer is capable of tremendous increases in production, provided he can afford to stay in business," White said.

**15 apply for sheriff position**

MCKINNEY (AP) — Collin County commissioners had 15 applications Tuesday for the sheriff's job left empty by the resignation of George Smith.

The commissioners named Deputy Sheriff Jerry Kunkle acting sheriff, and County Judge W. G. Proctor said a new sheriff could be chosen within the week. Kunkle is among those applying for the post.

Smith submitted his resignation Monday in a letter that also contained veiled criticism of his former chief deputy Lawrence Selman. The letter, read in commissioners court, said, "After you appoint a new sheriff, I plan to make only one news release. That release will establish the facts which occurred prior to the departure of Lawrence Selman from the sheriff's department earlier this year. I think the public should be made aware of his activities while serving as a deputy sheriff."

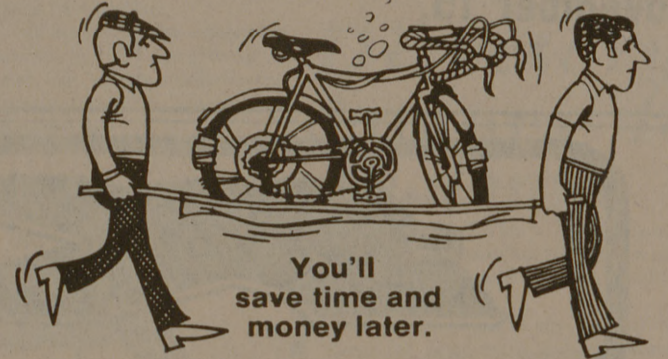
Selman, who has applied to fill Smith's job, resigned as deputy over "differences of opinion" with Smith. He has accused Smith of being lenient with massage parlor operators.

Smith, who will join a Houston security firm, became sheriff in January 1973. He told the commissioners his decision to resign had been "under consideration for a considerable length of time."

Judge Proctor said courthouse rumors led 15 persons to submit applications for the sheriff's job in recent weeks.

Smith was the subject of a grand jury investigation earlier this year but no indictments were issued.

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