

nation

# Sunbelt population grows

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — The population in the Sunbelt grew significantly during the 1970s, with California, Florida and Texas showing the greatest increases. The states of New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Is-

land had the largest net losses. The Bureau of the Census, in releasing its final estimates Tuesday of the 1980 census, said the population in the United States increased by 16.8 million during the previous decade for a total of 220,099,000.

"While the Northeast had almost no population change since 1970, and the North Central states have grown less than half as fast as the nation as a whole, the South and the West grew substantially faster than the national average," the Bureau said.

California, Texas and Florida each grew by more than 2 million people during the decade.

California gained 2,723,000 during the decade for a total of 22,694,000; Texas gained 2,182,000 to 13,381,000; and Florida 2,068,000 to 8,859,000.

Other states estimated to have grown by more than half a million since 1970 are Arizona, Colorado, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and Washington.

New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island lost population since 1970.

New York lost 593,000 people for a total of 17,648,000; Pennsylvania was down 70,000 to 11,731,000; and Rhode Island lost 20,000 for a total of 930,000.

The District of Columbia is estimated to have experienced the largest percentage drop in population during the decade, losing an estimated 13.4 percent (or 101,000) of its population between April 1970 and July 1979 for a total of 656,000 people.

If the estimates hold up when the official 1980 census is conducted, Florida would pick up three additional congressional seats, and California and Texas each would pick up two. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah and Washington each would gain one seat.

New York would lose four congressional seats and Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania would drop two each. Losing one seat each would be Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and South Dakota, the bureau said.

California remains the nation's most populous state, followed by New York and Texas. Alaska remains the nation's least populated state, despite a 34.3 percent population increase during the decade from 303,000 to 407,000.

Final census counts for the states will be released in January 1981.

## Chip Carter granted divorce from wife of seven years

**United Press International**  
 AMERICUS, Ga. — President Carter's son Chip has been granted an "uncontested" divorce from Caron Carter.

Sumter County Superior Court Judge W.L. Blanks signed the final divorce decree Tuesday. He had heard arguments in the action Friday with Mrs. Carter in court. Chip, campaigning for his father, was not present.

Sources reported it was a "friendly uncontested divorce" with "liberal

visitation rights" for Chip, 30, to see his 3-year-old son James Earl Carter IV. The boy spent last weekend with his father and grandparents at the White House.

Mrs. Carter, 29, of Hawkinsville, Ga., is an elementary school teacher in an Atlanta suburb.

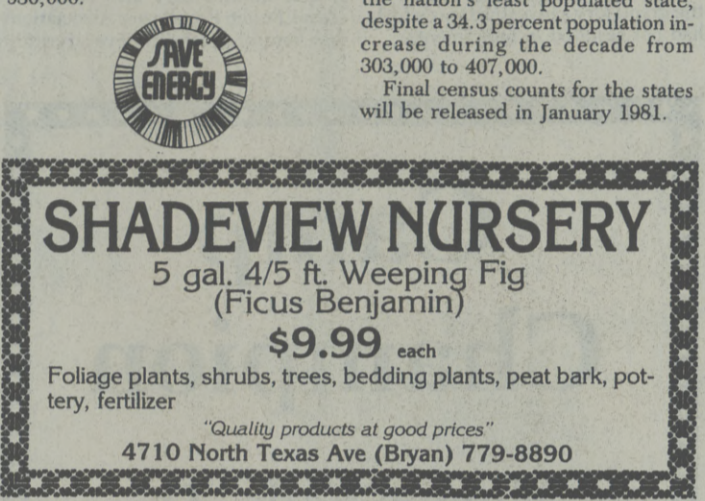
The couple married in June, 1973 and separated in 1978. Chip has been living at the White House and now works for the Carter-Mondale campaign committee.



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# Alien count question may halt census start

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — Less than one month before the 1980 census is slated to begin, a group of immigration reformers and members of Congress is trying to delay the population count until illegal aliens are excluded.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform and 26 members of Congress Tuesday asked the Supreme Court to block the census scheduled to begin on April 1.

The group said the census should not be taken until its lawsuit challenging the inclusion of illegal aliens in the population count is reviewed. They asked Chief Justice Warren Burger for a preliminary injunction.

The group filed a federal suit to stop the census, arguing inclusion of illegal aliens would result in an unfair reapportionment — giving states

with large numbers of illegal aliens more seats in Congress.

They argued the Constitution mandates the counting only of legal residents of the United States.

On Feb. 26, a three-judge federal District Court panel dismissed the suit, ruling the group did not have a legal right to bring it and they failed to show harm would result by including millions of illegal aliens in the census.

Renewing its claim in the United States' highest court, the group argued the inclusion of illegal aliens would "dilute" the population base for congressional seats and affect the distribution of \$50 billion in federal funds to the states.

They said the ruling of the lower court "effectively confers upon illegal aliens a right to equal representation in Congress and state legisla-

tures, a result plainly at odds with the purpose of the Constitution.

Unless Burger acts, they argued the ruling would be "an ill-founded invitation to nationwide post-census litigation of the issue, in a context where relief would require the expenditure of vast sums for re-taking the census and potential dissolution of the then-seated 97th Congress and 40 state legislatures."

Barnaby Zall, a spokesman for the federation, said the ruling will be appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

He said the federation wants the court to order two population counts, one including illegal aliens and one with only legal residents. The latter would be used for apportionment purposes.

# Defaulters to receive refunds from GMAC

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — Thousands of consumers whose General Motors cars and trucks were repossessed when they defaulted on their payments will receive from \$25 to \$700 in refunds in a \$2 million Federal Trade Commission settlement.

The money is owed the former car and truck owners, the FTC said Tuesday, because GM's financing agency, General Motors Acceptance Corp., allegedly sold the vehicles at a profit and failed to return the extra money to the people who defaulted.

Under the Uniform Commercial Code, when a car is repossessed and sold, the person who defaulted on his payments is supposed to be refunded any "surplus" money from the resale, after deductions are made for

the amount still owed and expenses for handling the transaction.

GMAC, according to the FTC, repossesses more than 100,000 cars and trucks every year. But according to an FTC complaint, GMAC is conducting "sham" sales of the repossessed cars by selling them back to itself at a low price, then reselling them to a third party at a higher price.

GM still denies the FTC's allegations, saying, "In most cases the money realized on the sale of a repossession is less than the amount owed by the defaulting customer."

But it said the legal cost of fighting the matter was substantial and threatened to be even higher so "a decision was made to consider a negotiated settlement."

Consumers eligible for the re-

fund will be "notified as soon as the can be identified." The actual re-

ments, it said, will not be final until at least a year after the effective date of the agreement. The effective date probably will be sometime in May or June.

The FTC described the settlement as "one of the largest consumer credit restitution agreements ever obtained by the commission. It is not, however, the first. A similar, though smaller, agreement previously was reached with the Finance Motor Co.

The consent agreement settling the complaint states GM dealers must provide refunds when owners of former owners of repossessed cars within 45 days, along with a written statement telling how the amount was calculated.

# Grain targets to rise

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — Both the House and Senate approved without dissent compromise legislation to raise target prices for wheat and feed

grain crops by 7 percent this year.

The legislation would raise targets for wheat to \$3.63 per bushel and for corn to \$2.35 per bushel. Target

prices for 1981 would have to be at least that high. The agriculture secretary would have discretion to raise them.

The Senate approved the compromise Tuesday morning. A few hours later, the House added its approval and sent the bill to President Carter for his signature.

Target prices are intended to provide safety nets for farmers in the event of low prices. When national average crop prices fall below the target, farmers are given direct per-bushel payments equal to the difference between the targets and the average prices.

The Senate also approved without dissent an extension of the Farm Home Administration's economic emergency loan program until Sept. 30, 1981. The extension added \$1 billion in lending authority for the program which was to expire May 15.

The program provides money for farm operating expenses and debt financing.

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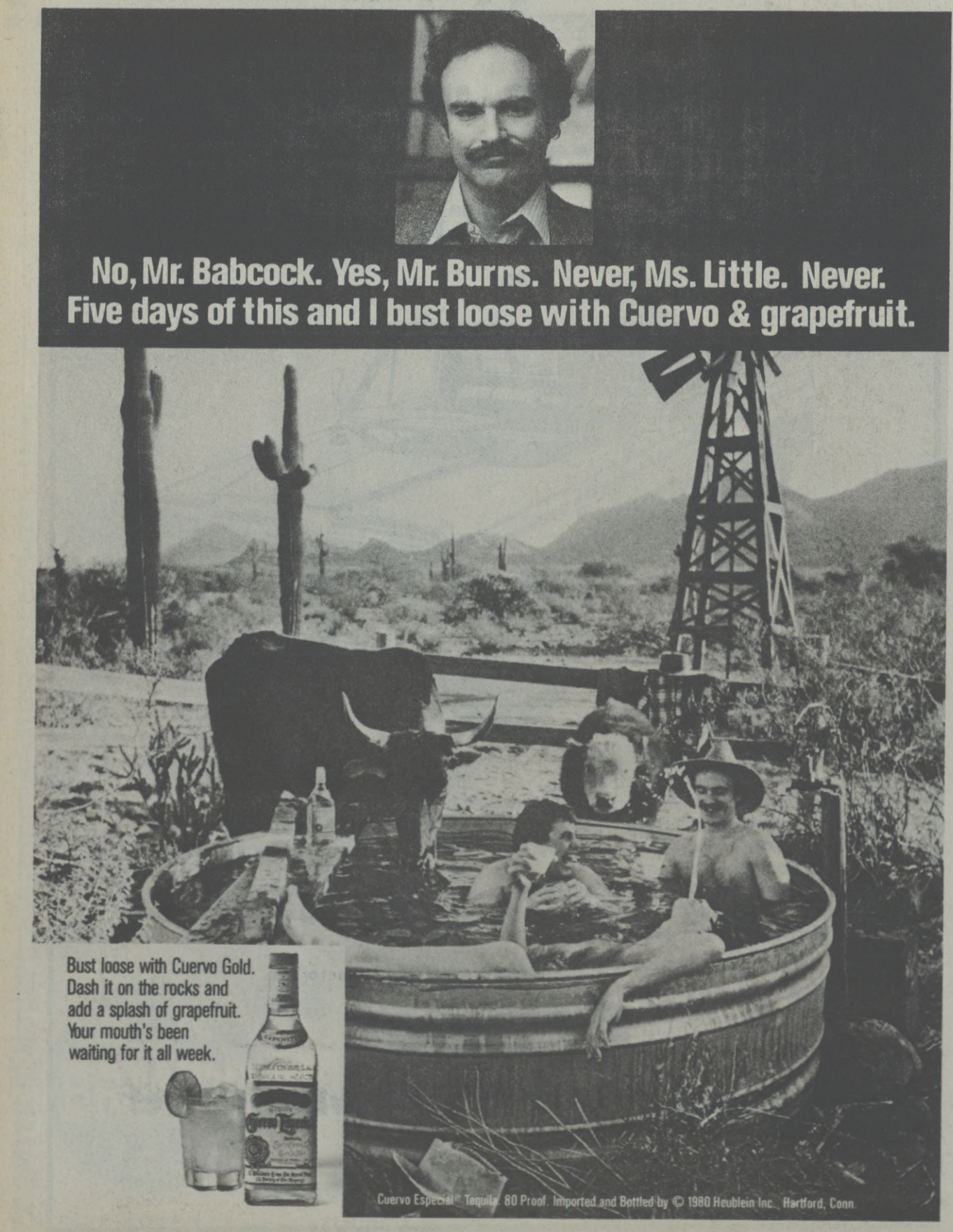
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