

# Census report should be finished on time

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Many Americans who filled out census forms skipped questions on income, education, health and language abilities, the Census Bureau reports.

But Director Vincent Barabba said 98 percent of the estimated 87 million questionnaires mailed to U.S. households at the end of March have now been returned.

He said the bureau, which must deliver the national headcount to President Carter by New Year's Day, is only two weeks behind its schedule now.

The bureau last week began its

new local review program, mailing unofficial population figures to 39,500 governmental units so officials can check their home areas for possible mistakes.

Barabba said the bureau will make a decision this fall on whether to adjust the raw census figures to make up for what officials feel will surely be an undercount in some hard-to-crack areas.

As for the census forms themselves, associate census director George Hall said about 20 percent of the short ones were returned to the bureau with at least one question un-

answered. The rate was double — about 40 percent — among those who received the more detailed long forms.

"The questions which people tended to leave unanswered," Hall said, "were about income, languages spoken at home, level of education and physical and mental disabilities."

He said this poses no problem because the bureau "has an idea" what the answers are anyway — people living in ghettos are mostly low income and poorly educated while those in Beverly Hills, Calif., are

likely to be rich.

"You begin to get an idea about the kind of person you are talking about," he said. "We usually don't make an effort to follow up on these type of unanswered questions, unless the omissions are the basic count questions," such as how many people live in a household.

Barabba, beleaguered by congressional complaints and reports of internal mismanagement at the Census Bureau, also revealed some embarrassing circumstances concerning temporary employees.

Some workers, he said, have been

caught "curb-stoning" — making up answers instead of going door-to-door to get them.

Barabba said the "curb-stoning" employees have been fired, and their laziness will not cause serious problems. He said they were caught through a checking process designed to weed them out.

At least one temporary employee was an illegal alien who lied on his job application and eventually was deported due to a spot investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, he said.

# Carter to Europe; talks start Sunday

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Carter is wading through briefing papers to prepare for the fence-mending Venice summit that will focus heavily on the pressing problems of Western security in the 1980s.

Carter will fly to Italy on Thursday, starting an eight-day journey that will also take him to Yugoslavia, Spain and Portugal. The summit meeting will be held following a two-day state visit to Rome and a call on Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

First lady Rosalynn Carter and daughter Amy will accompany the president, along with an entourage of diplomatic and economic advisers. Some 240 members of the press corps will be following Carter on his European swing.

An administration official said the seven-nation summit will provide the Western leaders "with an opportunity to consult on broad political and strategic issues on the outset of the decade of the eighties."

The security discussions will cover the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the threat it poses to the Persian Gulf and its vital oil supplies; the volatile Middle East; immediate and long term relations with Iran, with special reference to the American hostage crisis; and East-West relations, the official said.

Carter will not approach the political problems in a "defensive mood" despite the U.S. government's differences with its allies, an aide said.

The summit meeting will formally begin Sunday morning at the Cini Foundation on a scenic Venetian island.

In addition to the United States, other nations represented at the summit will be France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Canada, and Japan.

# PBS official denies film encourages suicide

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Barry Chase, president of the Public Broadcasting System, said Tuesday he does not believe the documentary "Choosing Suicide" will encourage people to take their own lives.

The film, shown Monday night on public television stations, records the "rational suicide" of Jo Roman, a 62-year-old woman who suffered from cancer. On July 10, 1979, as her husband and friends watched, she swallowed 35 barbiturates with champagne.

"Our best advice from experts in the field is that there has been no reliable study that shows there are suicides prompted by something like this," Chase said.

"Beyond that, there's obviously a problem if every time there's news of a suicide, it causes a suicide. That would create a taboo."

But a Detroit psychiatrist, Dr. Bruce Danto, said the film might "nudge some suicidal individuals beyond the point of ambivalent feelings."

Danto, a former president of the American Association of Suicidology, said the documentary "turns death into a carnival affair. It glorifies something that should not be glorified. It dehumanizes death and gives honor to suicide."

The film is also "insensitive and dehumanizing" for implying that a person's life is over because he or she has cancer, Danto said.

Roman, a Manhattan artist and psychotherapist, had planned to kill herself when she reached her 70s. But after she contracted cancer, she decided to commit suicide earlier.

During the 60-minute documentary, which was distilled from 19 hours of film, Roman says: "I don't think of myself now as 'killing myself.' I feel no desire to kill, or injure, or maim. To me that's the difference between rational and irrational suicide."

Roman's husband, Mel, said the documentary won't "drive people to suicide, but that it will make people think about life and death in new ways."

# Attorney General sues Burmah Agate owners

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Attorney General Mark White said Tuesday he had filed suit against the owners of the Burmah Agate, a ship that collided with another tanker in the Galveston Ship Channel last year that contributed to 32 deaths and a fire that burned for 69 days.

White said the lawsuit alleges negligence, trespass and other faults on the part of the owners of the Burmah Agate, which flew a Liberian flag at the time of the Nov. 1, 1979, pre-dawn collision.

The Burmah Agate was preparing to enter the Galveston Ship Channel to unload a cargo of 390,000 barrels of crude oil when it collided with the Mimosa, a ship that was empty and outbound. The collision killed 32 of the Taiwanese crews.

On April 29, 1980, the owners of the Burmah Agate asked a federal district judge to exonerate them or limit its liability to \$185,852, which they said was the estimate of the value of the ship and its pending freight after the wreck.

But White said negligence will be easy to prove against the owners and operators of the Burmah Agate.

"I don't think there will be any problem finding negligence in this case," the attorney general said.

White also said the state had incurred significant cleanup costs from the accident, which caused oil to be strewn as far as 100 miles on and along the Texas coast.

He said the state had not yet determined the damage estimates because the state had until today to file suit.

"The accounting of that number is under way at this time," White said. "The nature of the litigation and the deadlines make it difficult to assess damages at this time."

# Small New York City bank lowers prime rate by a point

United Press International  
NEW YORK — A small New York City bank Tuesday cut its prime rate by a full point to 11½ percent, foreshadowing what some analysts think will be another decline in the key lending rate by major institutions.

UMB Bank and Trust Co., a subsidiary of Israel's United Mizrahi Bank, announced its reduction was effective immediately. The bank recently has been a maverick in trimming the rate charged on loans to its most creditworthy corporate customers.

The bulk of the banking industry remains split between 12 and 12½ percent prime rates but there are signs the downtrend from the April peak of 20 percent is continuing.


In the Treasury's weekly securities auction Monday, for example, yields on 13-week bills fell to 6.369 percent, down from last week's 6.5 percent and the lowest yield since May 15, 1978, when the rate was 6.318 percent.

For 26-week bills, the average discount rate was 6.662 percent, down from last week's 6.935 percent and the lowest yield since April 17, 1978, when the rate was 6.563 percent.

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