

STATE DEPT
Chronicle NY TIMES
**Identification Cards
For Citizens Asked
By Passport Chief**
Feb. 24 (1975)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP)

—Every United States citizen should eventually be required to carry a Government identity card—complete with fingerprints—to reduce fraud and other related crimes, Frances G. Knight, director of the State Department's Passport Office, said today.

"It is my considered opinion that the U.S. Government owes every American citizen a true, recorded national identity to protect him from criminal impersonations," Miss Knight said.

In an interview with U.S. News & World Report, Miss Knight said that her proposal was "loaded with political dynamite" because it "touches on the sensitive issues of personal privacy and a free society."

But she said that such a system would "be a notable deterrent to fraud, a valuable tool in crime detection and an acceptably secure method of guaranteeing a citizen's personal identity."

Miss Knight said that "an insignificant number of our citizens would be opposed to national registration and being issued a national identity card."

"I predict that national registration eventually will come to this country because it will be demanded by citizens who are sick and tired of supporting nontaxpaying criminals and illegal aliens," she continued. She said that the use of false identification papers was costing the Government an estimated \$1.5-billion to \$3-billion a year and that the number of passport frauds jumped from 501 in fiscal year 1970 to 791 in fiscal year 1974.