

WXPost  
Surveillance Planner  
Is on Privacy Panel

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Tom Charles Huston, the former White House aide who drafted a massive domestic surveillance plan in 1970, has been serving for the past year on a Census Bureau advisory committee on privacy and confidentiality.

The chief topic of the only committee meeting Huston attended — in February, 1973 — was releasing information from the 1900 census.

Huston said yesterday he took no firm position on the matter. He plans to leave the committee when his one-year term expires Oct. 7.

Now a lawyer in Indianapolis, Huston, 32, was a speech writer and assistant counsel to President Nixon from 1969 to 1971.

The secret plan he drew up for increased government surveillance of radical groups included bugging and break-ins. It was approved by Mr. Nixon in July, 1970, but the President rescinded approval after a few days because of strong objections from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

A Census Bureau spokes-

man said Huston was appointed to the committee on privacy by former Commerce Secretary Peter G. Peterson because "he is a lawyer with a background in constitutional law."

Last week Rep. William S. Moorhead (D-Pa.) declared in a House speech that "just what Mr. Huston is doing" on a privacy committee "is a mystery to me." He said Huston should resign immediately.

In an interview, Huston said he would just let his term run out, but he said he also does not know why he is on the 15-member committee, where members are not paid.

"I guess they have a hat down there with people to appoint to citizens committees," he said, "and my name just came out of it."

As to releasing names from the 1900 census records, which are being sought by genealogists, Huston said, "I have not formed a concrete opinion on that, and nobody else on the committee did. It's not the most monumental issue of the century."



TOM CHARLES HUSTON  
on census committee