

## Citizenry By the Numbers

### Washington

The director of the United States Passport Office indicates she favors a national registration system, with everyone being given a number and possibly fingerprinted.

Frances G. Knight sees this not only as a possible first step toward international passport cards, but also as a move to correct faults in current identification methods which result in "enormous tax evasion, social security frauds and national crime."

"No intelligent, law-abiding citizen can seriously object to a national registration which would establish his identity and safeguard his security, bank, tax and insurance benefits," she told an international trade and transportation seminar Thursday at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Rather than an invasion of privacy, Miss Knight said, national registration would be a personal safeguard.

"If the format can be standardized, let us say by ten nations with the largest volume of tourism, we would



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FRANCES G. KNIGHT  
Passport Office chief

be well on our way toward and acceptable international identification document," she said.

She said the airlines had been applying pressure for a "credit card" type passport which could be scanned electronically to feed data into a computer and accelerate the transfer of passengers through international airports.

But before any credit card type passports can be developed, she said, a fool-proof document must first be developed, and this inevitably will require national registration.

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