

President Accused of Pressure On Census Bureau to Aid G.O.P.

By JACK ROSENTHAL ^{DEC} 10 1970
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WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—The chairman of the House Census Subcommittee accused the Nixon Administration today of trying to "rejuggle" the release of 1970 census data in order to benefit lame-duck Republicans in Ohio, Florida and other states.

The chairman, Representative Charles H. Wilson, Democrat of California, announced that his group would hold hearings next week to investigate what he called an "attempt by the Administration to subvert the will of the people as expressed in the November elections."

He said the Census Bureau had been pressured to speed up delivery of final, specific results of the 1970 census to particular states.

Such early delivery, Mr. Wilson said, would permit Republican officials in Ohio to redraw Congressional districts before John J. Gilligan, the Democratic Governor-elect, takes office Jan. 11.

Pressures have also been applied on behalf of Florida, census subcommittee staff members said today. Expedited census results, they said, would permit Claude R. Kirk Jr., the outgoing Republican Governor, to appoint 11 \$30,000-a-year state judges before his term expires on Jan. 4.

Representative Wilson said he would ask Maurice H. Stans, Secretary of Commerce, and George Hay Brown, director of the Census Bureau, to testify.

Mr. Stans is out of the country. Mr. Brown said today that the Census Bureau would withhold any response until the hearings, scheduled for Dec. 16.

The Census Bureau issued final national and state population totals on Nov. 30. Mr. Brown said then the bureau hoped to complete counts for smaller areas — essential for constructing new Congressional districts — by the end of the year.

Representative Wilson, however, said he had evidence that Census Bureau employees were pulled off other jobs to help expedite the count in Ohio and other states where Democrats had won state offices.

In the November elections, seven previously Republican state legislatures and 11 such governorships went Democratic.

An Ohio official confirmed today that James A. Rhodes, the outgoing Republican governor, had asked in late November for expedited results.

"The census people said they'd try to have them by Dec. 1," said John M. McElroy, administrative assistant to the Governor, in a telephone interview.

But when the results were produced, he said, many were garbled because of computer problems.

"They've been working to correct the problems," Mr. McElroy said, "but I don't see how we could get the results before the 22d."

Since the present state legislature, heavily Republican, expires Dec. 31, "I don't think there'll be any special session to redistrict," he said. "that would take three weeks."

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