

FEAR!(?) The Census Bureau

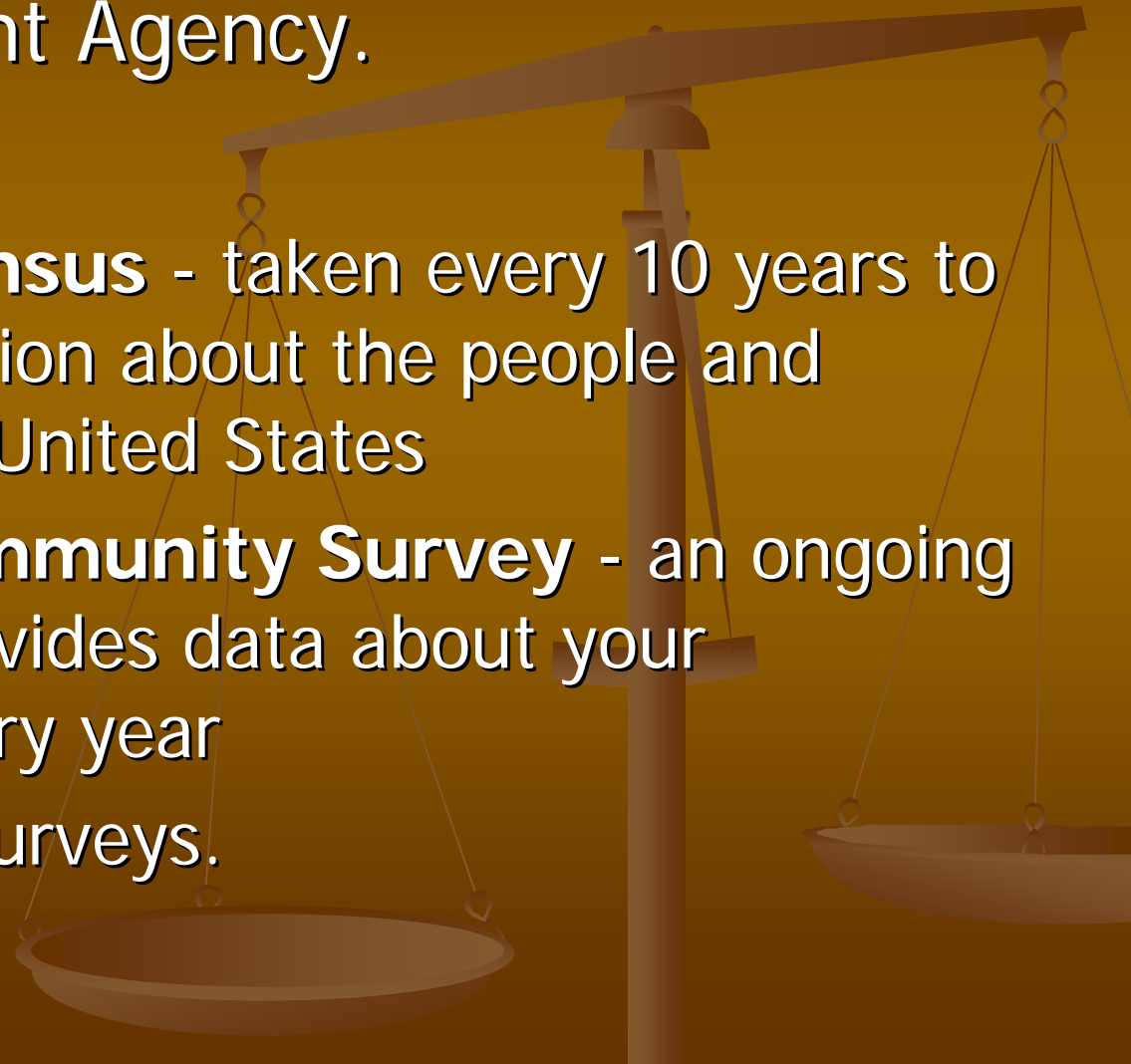


“No other government agency has information on every person in the United States”

Census Website

What is the Census Bureau?

- U.S. Government Agency.
 - **Decennial Census** - taken every 10 years to collect information about the people and housing of the United States
 - **American Community Survey** - an ongoing survey that provides data about your community every year
 - Various other surveys.

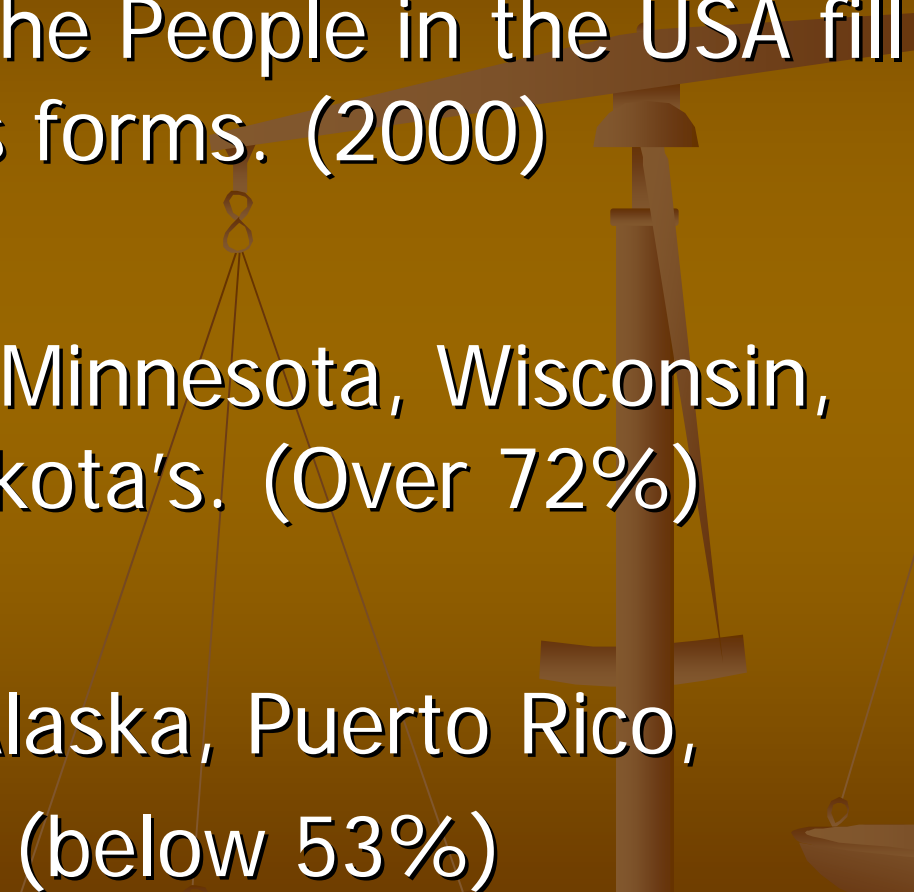


History



- "[An] Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct."
- Congress first met in 1789, and the first national census was held in 1790.

Census Compliance

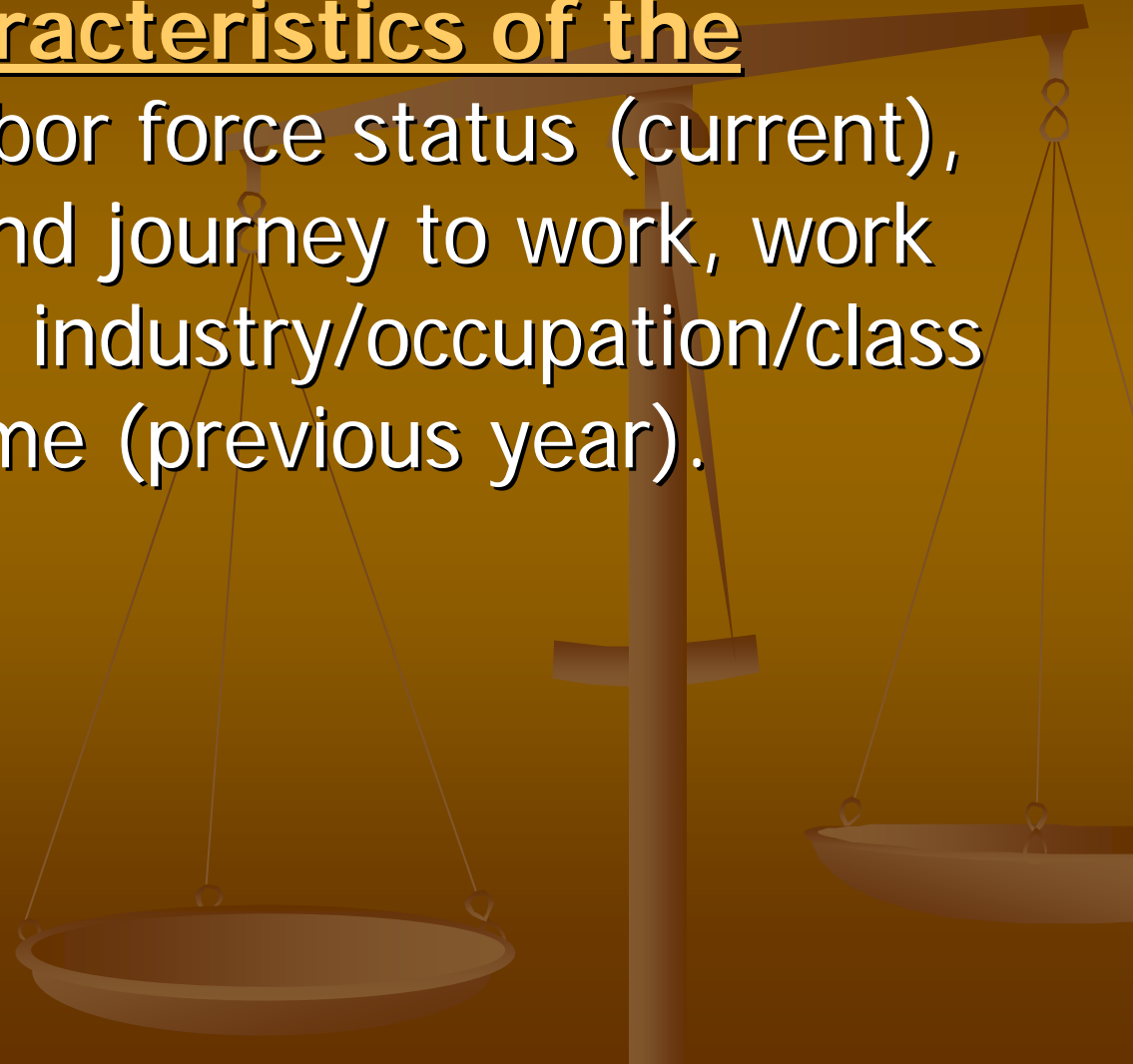
- 2/3's (67%) of the People in the USA fill out their Census forms. (2000)
 - Highest rates: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, & The Dakota's. (Over 72%)
 - Lowest rates: Alaska, Puerto Rico, (below 53%)
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What's on the Form

- Social characteristics of the population: marital status, place of birth/citizenship/year of entry, education-school enrollment/educational attainment, ancestry, residence 5 years ago (migration), language spoken at home, veteran status, disability, grandparents as caregivers.

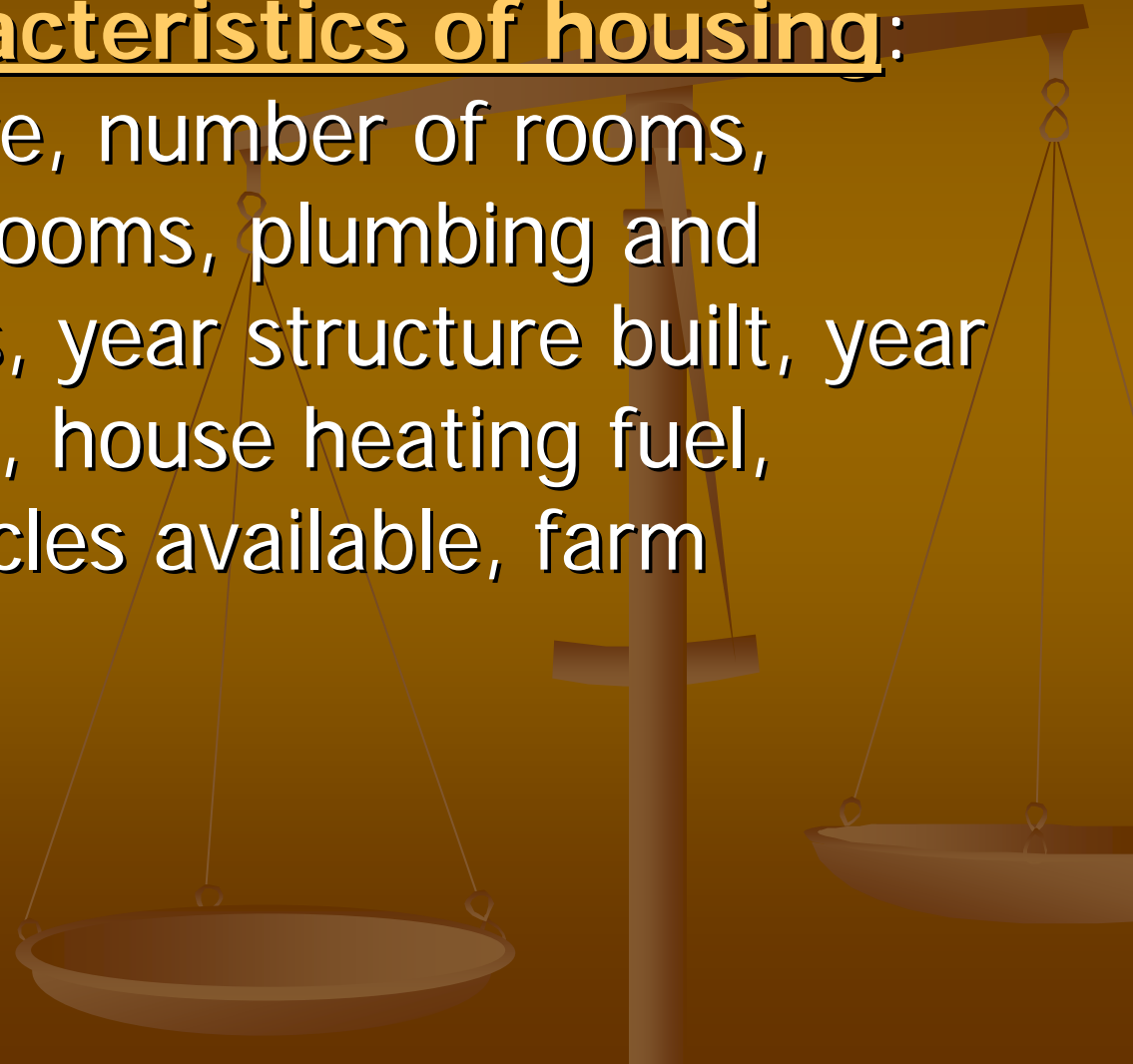
What's on the Form?

- Economic characteristics of the population: labor force status (current), place of work and journey to work, work status last year, industry/occupation/class of worker, income (previous year).



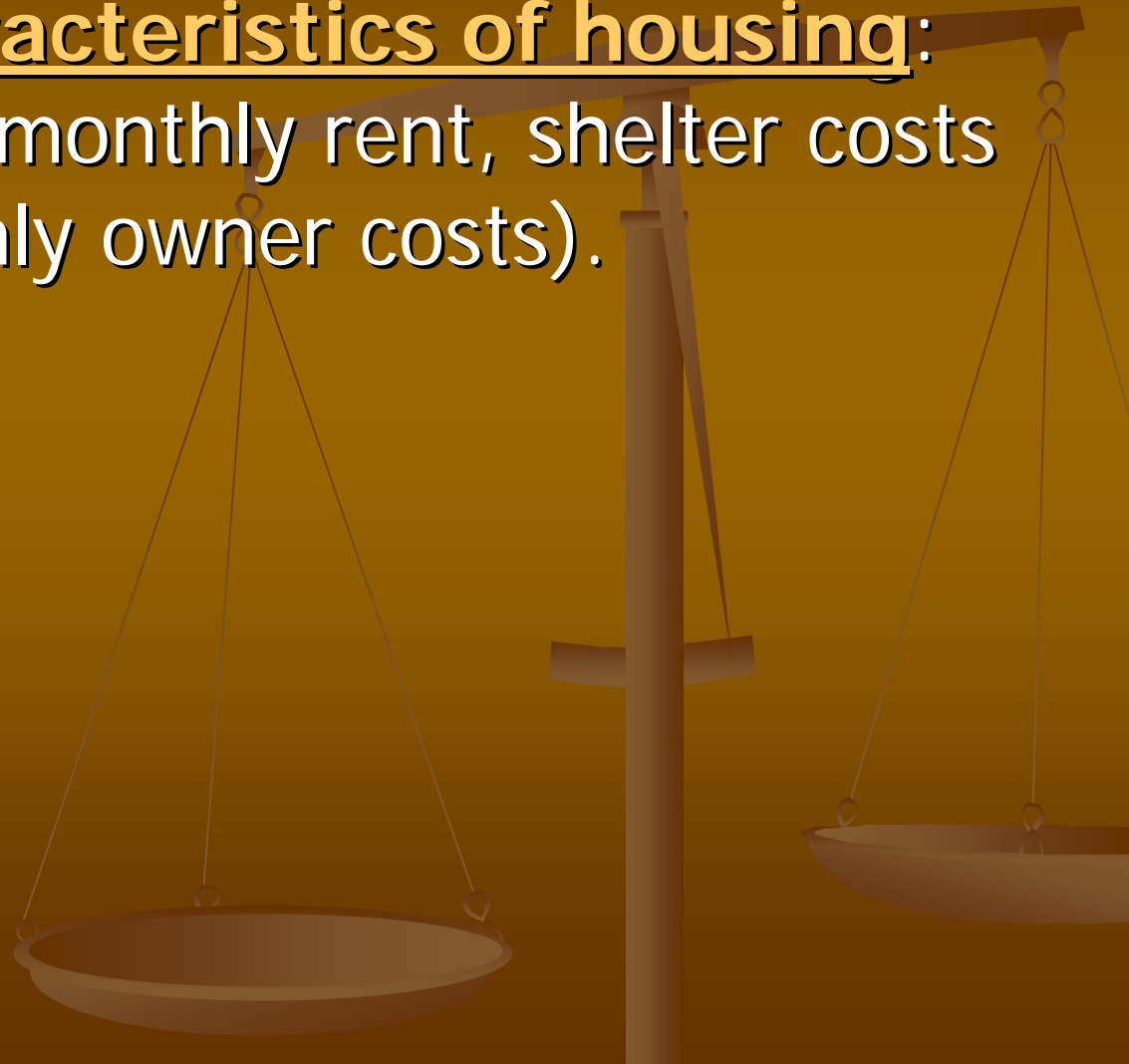
What's on the Form?

- **Physical characteristics of housing:** units in structure, number of rooms, number of bedrooms, plumbing and kitchen facilities, year structure built, year moved into unit, house heating fuel, telephone, vehicles available, farm residence.



What's on the Form?

- Financial characteristics of housing:
value of home, monthly rent, shelter costs
(selected monthly owner costs).

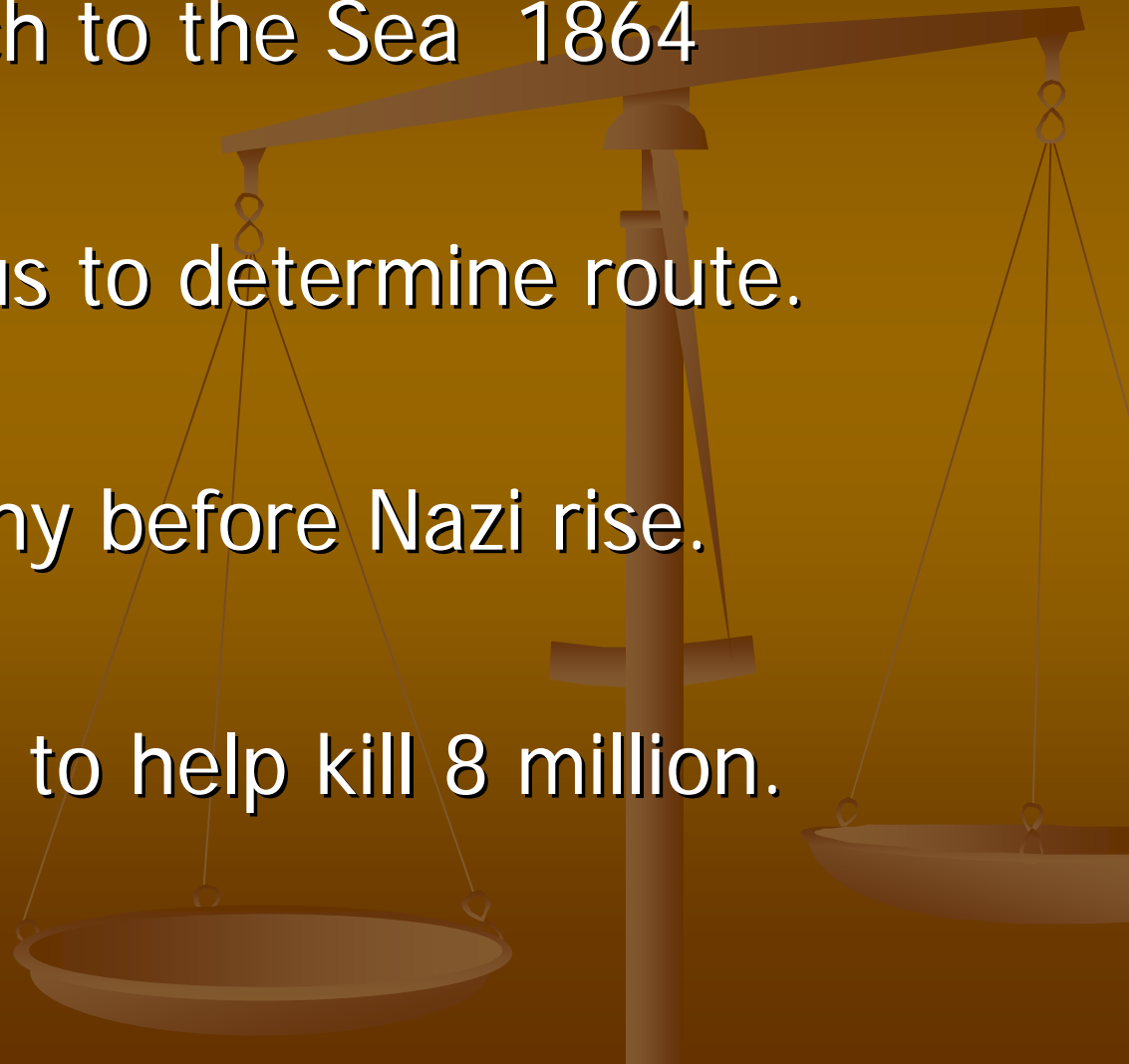


How this Information can Legally
be used.



(Mis)Use of the Census

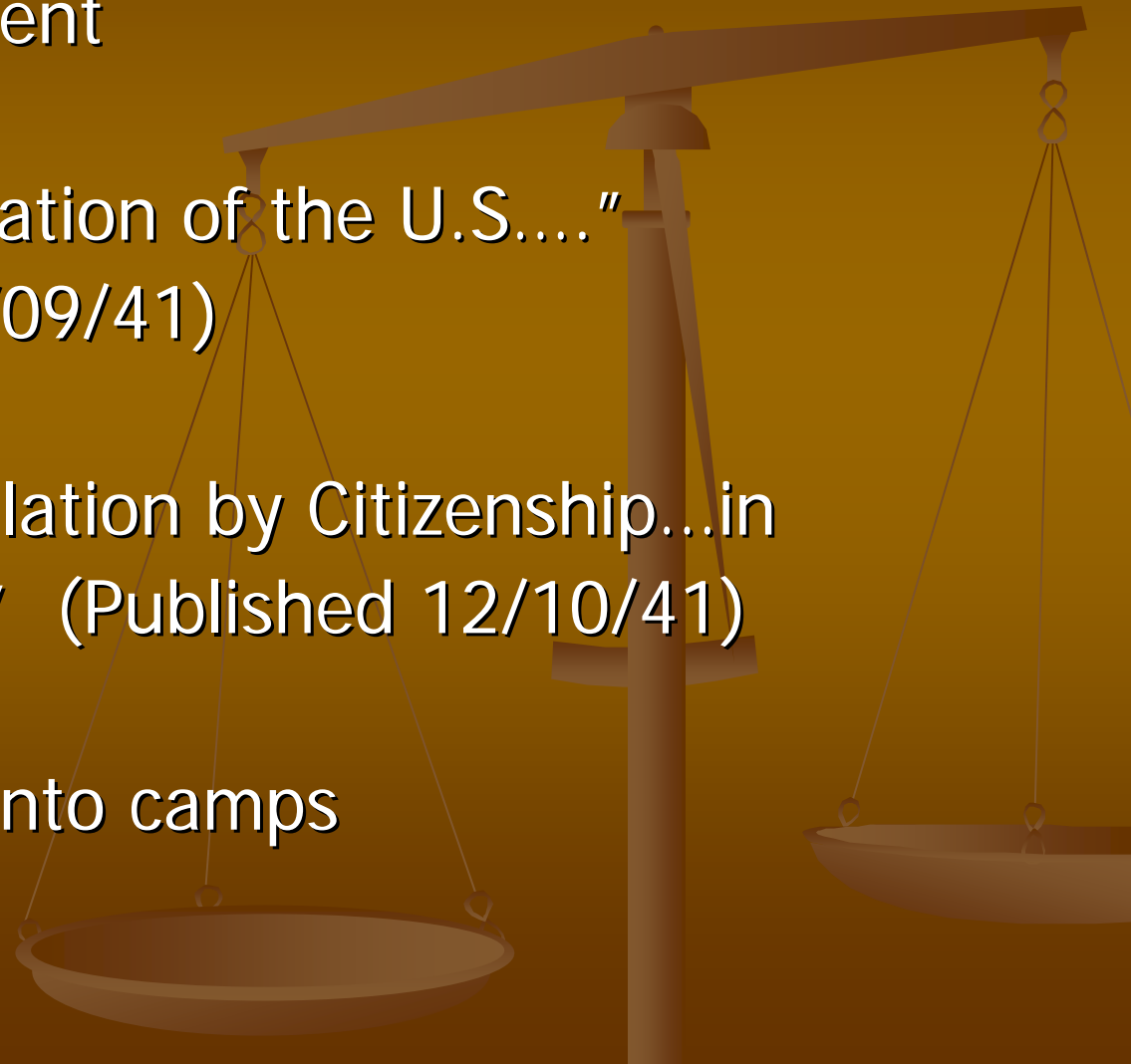
- Sherman's March to the Sea 1864
 - Used census to determine route.
- Used by Germany before Nazi rise.
 - Nazi's used to help kill 8 million.



(Mis)Use of the Census

■ Japanese Internment

- "Japanese Population of the U.S...."
(Published 12/09/41)
- "Japanese Population by Citizenship...in
selected cities" (Published 12/10/41)
- 120,000 placed into camps

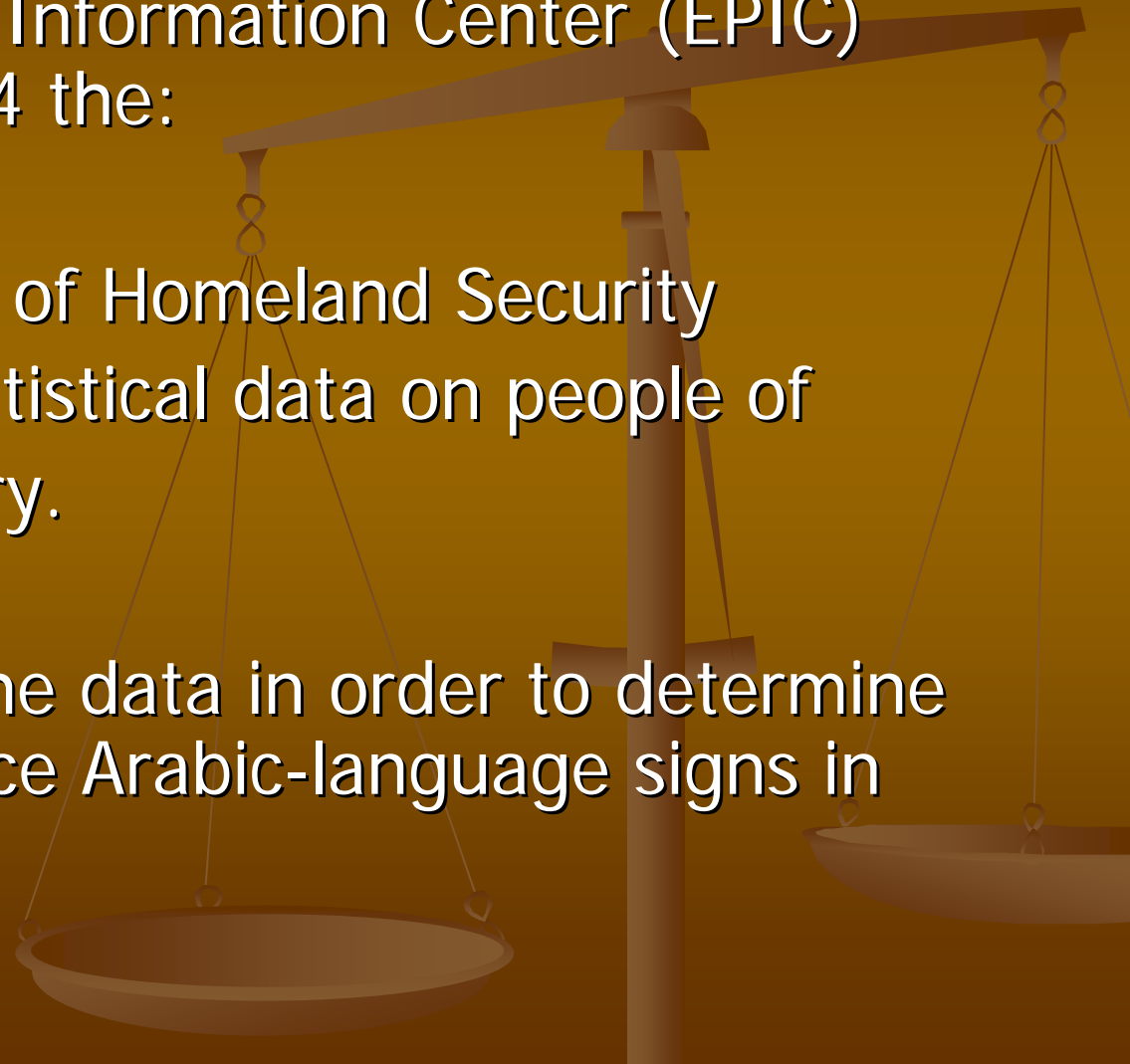


(Mis)Use of the Census

- Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) discovered in 2004 the:

- Department of Homeland Security obtained statistical data on people of Arab ancestry.

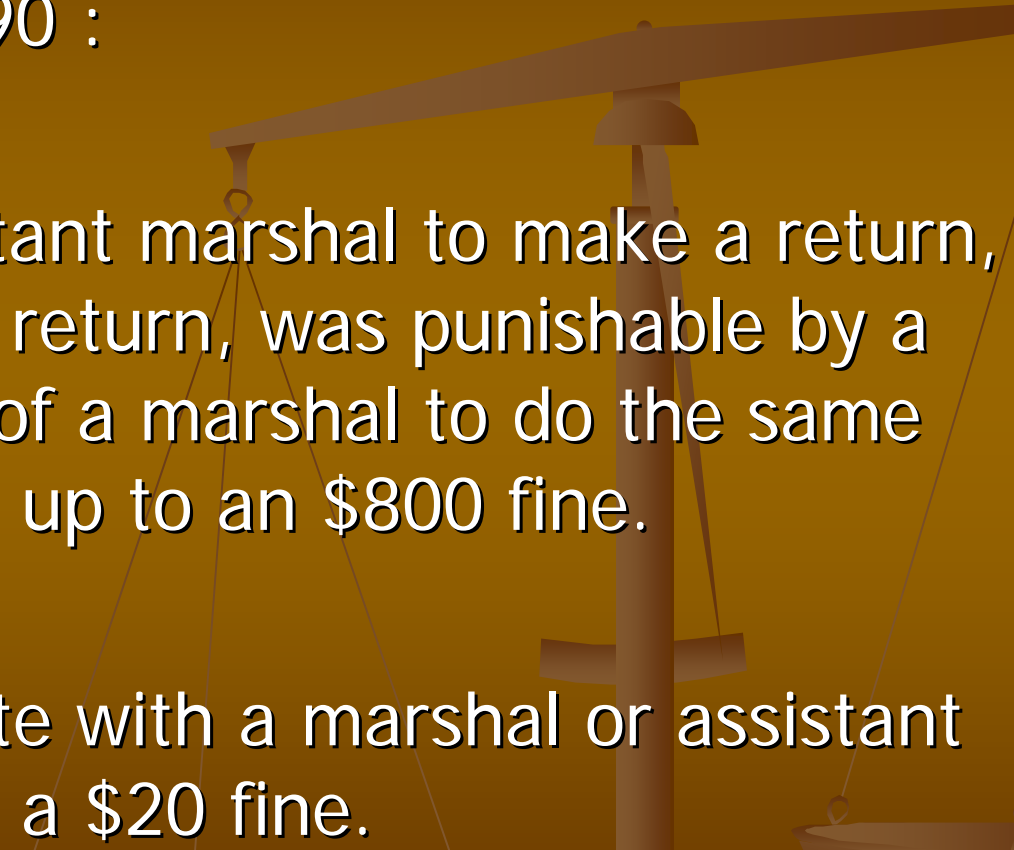
“We wanted the data in order to determine where to place Arabic-language signs in airports.”



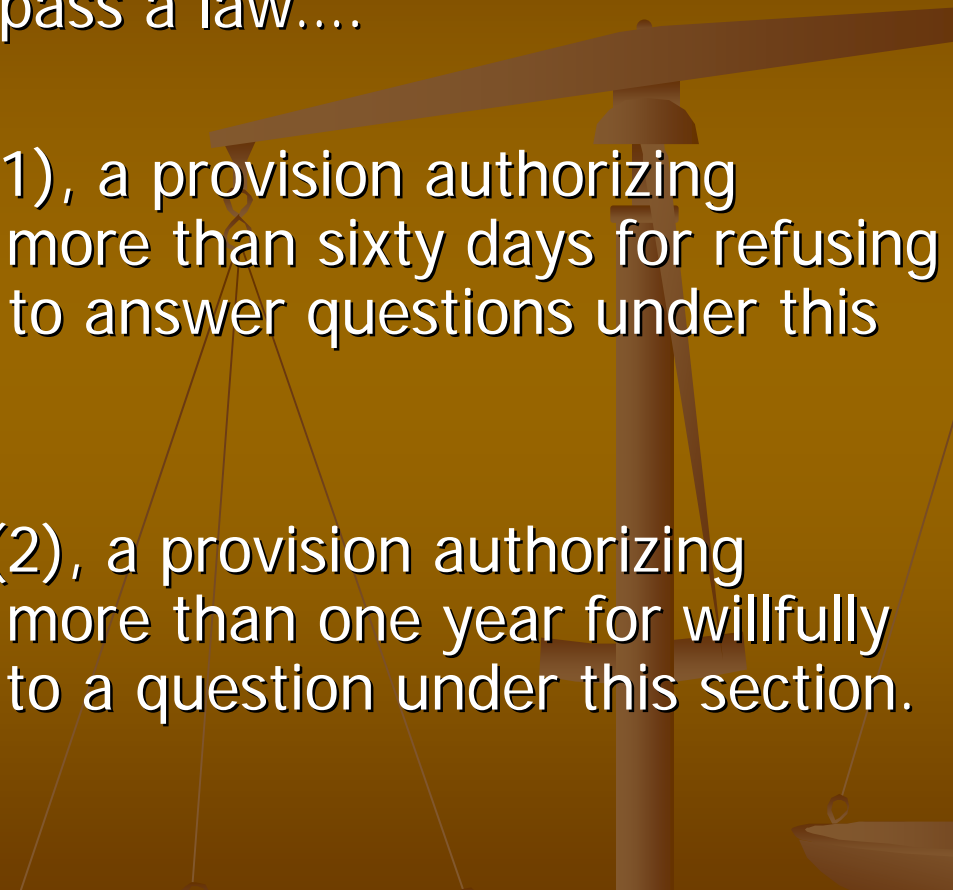
Potential Misuse of Data



Census Laws

- The 1st laws in 1790 :
 - Failure of an assistant marshal to make a return, or to make a false return, was punishable by a \$200 fine. Failure of a marshal to do the same was punishable by up to an \$800 fine.
 - Failure to cooperate with a marshal or assistant was punishable by a \$20 fine.
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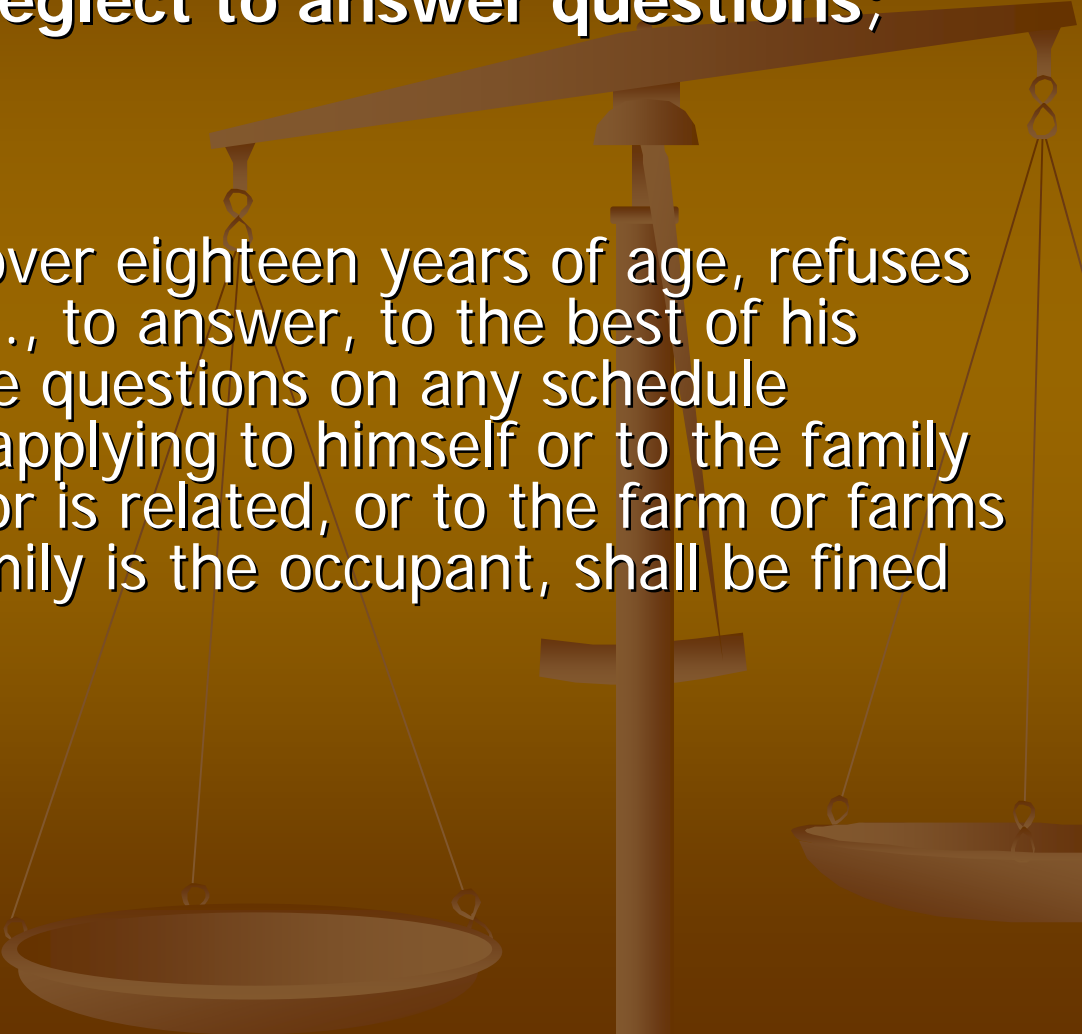
Census Laws

- In 1976 they tried to pass a law....
 - Pub. L. 94-521, § 13(1), a provision authorizing imprisonment for not more than sixty days for refusing or willfully neglecting to answer questions under this section.
 - Pub. L. 94-521, § 13(2), a provision authorizing imprisonment for not more than one year for willfully giving a false answer to a question under this section.
 - The Attempt failed.
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13 U.S.C.A. § 221

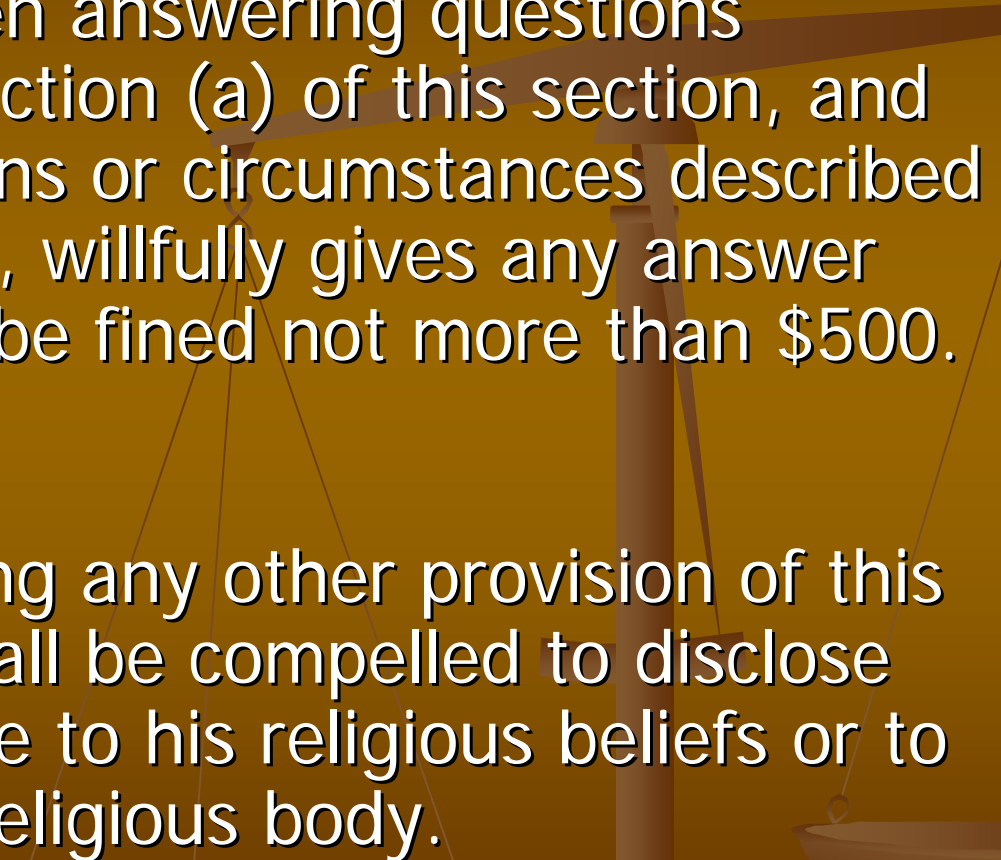
- **§ 221. Refusal or neglect to answer questions; false answers**

(a) Whoever, being over eighteen years of age, refuses or willfully neglects,...., to answer, to the best of his knowledge, any of the questions on any schedule submitted to him...., applying to himself or to the family to which he belongs or is related, or to the farm or farms of which he or his family is the occupant, shall be fined not more than \$100.



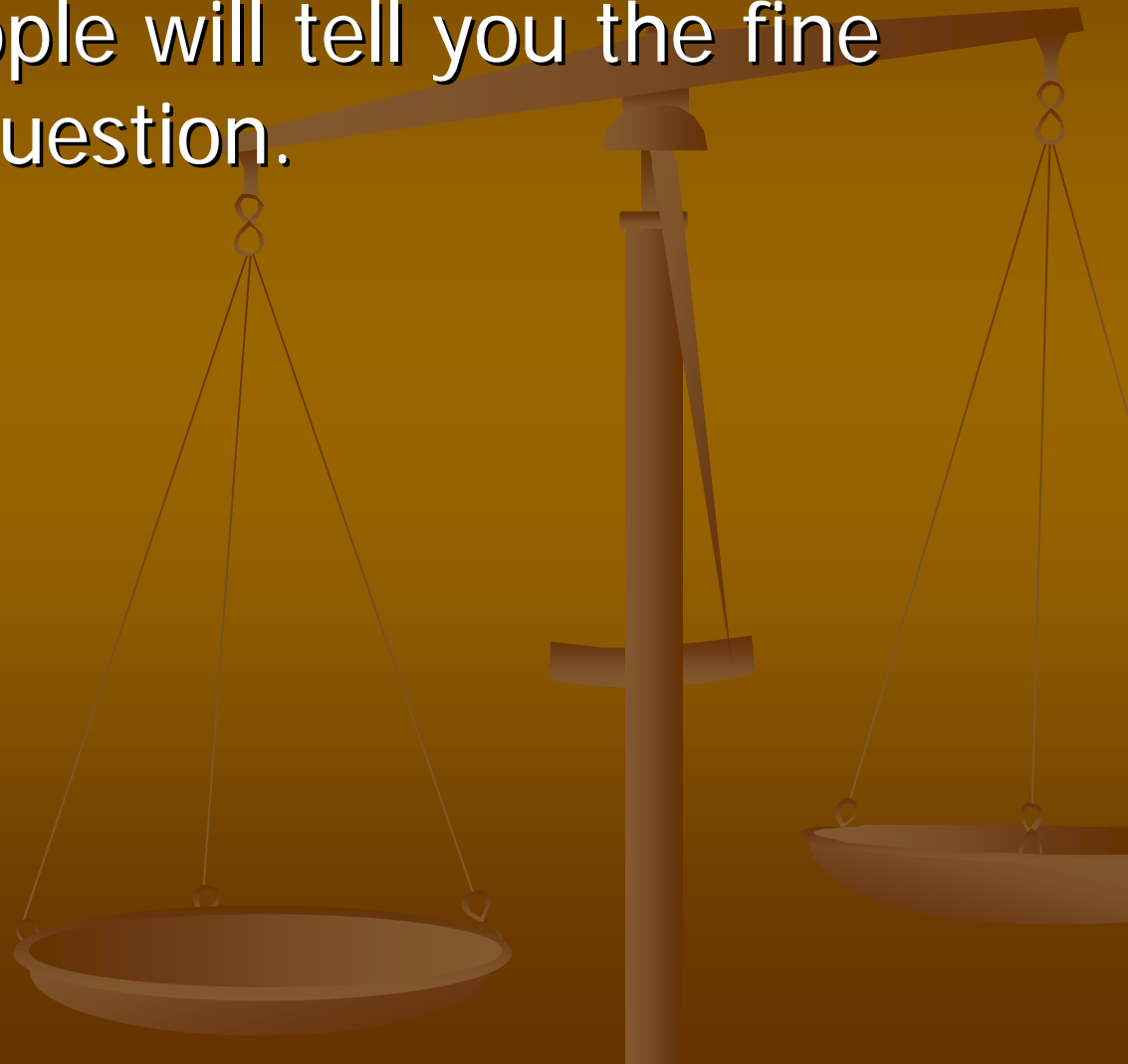
13 U.S.C.A. § 221

- **(b)** Whoever, when answering questions described in subsection (a) of this section, and under the conditions or circumstances described in such subsection, willfully gives any answer that is false, shall be fined not more than \$500.

 - (c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no person shall be compelled to disclose information relative to his religious beliefs or to membership in a religious body.
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Case Law

- The Census people will tell you the fine amount is per question.



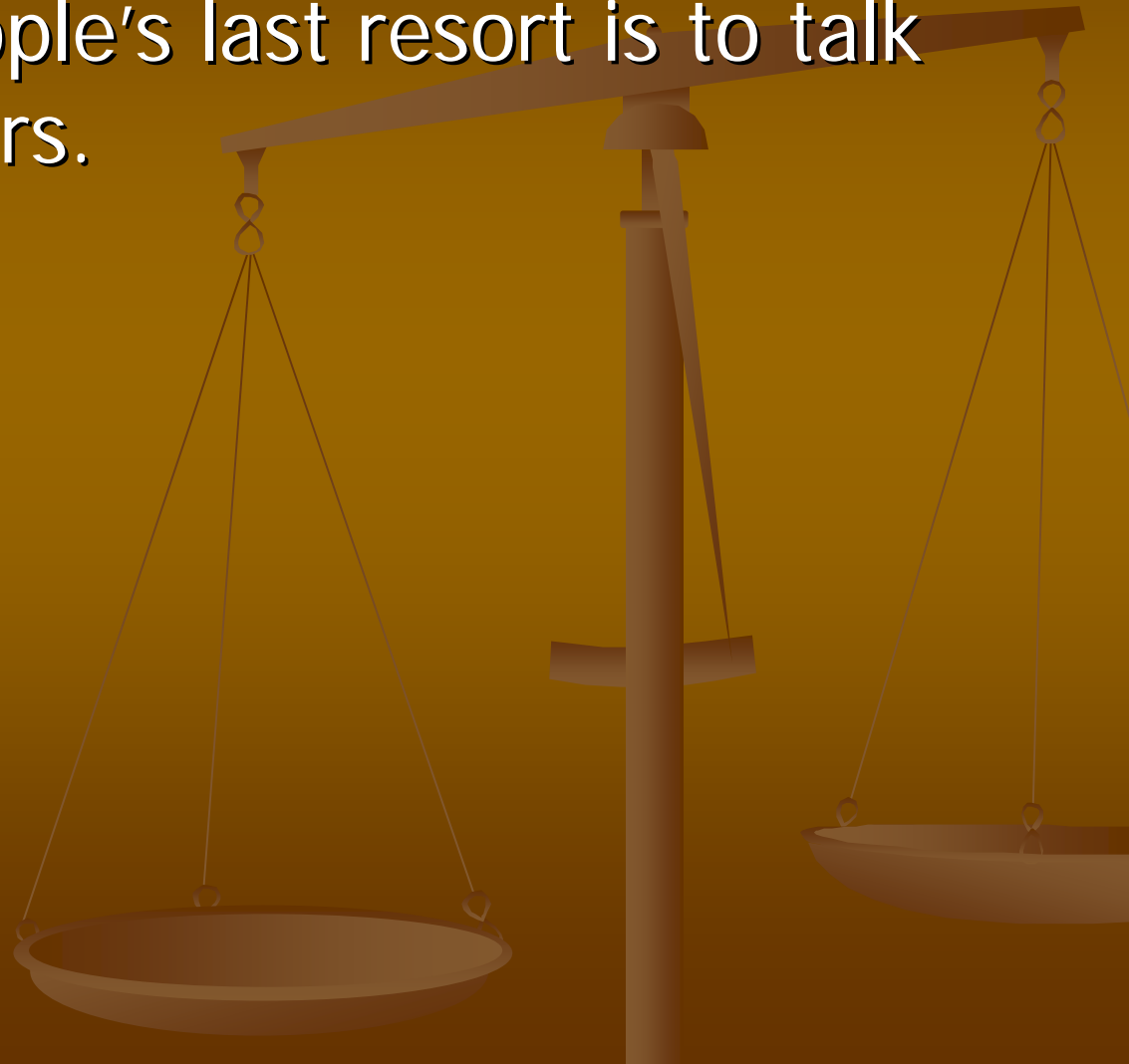
What to do.....?

- Refuse to Answer?
- Give False Answers?
- Remain silent?



In the End.....

- The Census people's last resort is to talk to your neighbors.



Sources

- <http://www.census.gov/>
- <http://www.epic.org/privacy/census/>
- <http://gis.esri.com/library/userconf/educ02/pap5001/p5001.htm>
- <http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/census17.shtml>
- <http://www.toad.com/gnu/census.html>