

event for a TV pool camera on the ground and to videotape the operation for later broadcast. The police in the communications activities with the stations have set up a special phone to give a direct link to the four local news stations.

This senseless killing served as a wake-up call for Portland. I think the model agreement that we have developed can serve as a model for other communities in the future.

I would ask my colleagues to reflect upon the situation that they may see in their community. Are there appropriate agreements in place between the news media and law enforcement in their hometowns?

It is clearly not Congress' role to have to legislate news coverage. It is, however, our role to do everything in our power to make sure that this never happens again. Congress does have a role in dealing with the trade, distribution of and availability of dangerous weapons; and I hope we will readdress this in the future.

I encourage my colleagues to learn from this Portland tragedy. To do so would mean that the sacrifice of Portland's finest will not have been in vain.

□ 1245

#### 2000 CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the 2000 Census. I realize there are not many people in Washington focused on that subject today or this week. While the country remains fixated on the problems engulfing the White House, the business of government must go on. The 2000 Census will be the largest peacetime mobilization ever undertaken by the Federal Government, and the planning must continue.

I want to begin by complimenting and thanking Acting Director James Holmes. Last week we were headed towards a confrontation over the issue of congressional access. Last night I received word from Mr. Holmes and we have resolved the issue. I think Mr. Holmes understands how seriously Congress takes its oversight responsibilities in regard to the census. Given all the controversy surrounding the methodology of the 2000 Census, the best way to proceed is to have an open relationship in the process of information gathering. Frankly, until Mr. Holmes arrived, the administration had a different view.

Mr. Speaker, we need cooperation between Congress and the administration because at the moment the 2000 Census is in serious trouble. I have said I believe we are headed towards a failed census. The Clinton administration, without the approval of the Congress,

has designed the largest statistical experiment in U.S. history. The plan is multifaceted and complicated. If one element of the plan goes wrong, it can destroy the accuracy of the entire census. The plan depends on an unrealistic time line and if they do not meet the deadlines at each step, the plan could easily fall apart.

The Commerce Department's own Inspector General has called the plan risky. The Inspector General said in December, "We conclude that although the 2000 Census design is risky, the bureau's fundamental problem is that it simply may not have enough time to plan and implement a design that achieves its dual goals of containing cost and increasing accuracy." The Inspector General goes on to state, "Because this process is long, complex, and operating under a tight schedule, there will be many opportunities for operational and statistical errors."

I have a Ph.D. in statistics and marketing, so I understand clearly the operational risk of this plan. As a statistician, the administration plan raises too many red flags to move forward and spend \$4 billion of taxpayers' money.

Let me try and give my colleagues a basic outline of this grand experiment. There are 60,000 census tracks in the United States. Each contains about 4,000 people. Under this new, untested theory, the administration wants to count only 90 percent of the people in each census track. That is unprecedented. For the first time in American history we will not attempt to count all Americans. First, they collect all the census forms returned by mail for each of the 60,000 census tracks. They hope to average about 67 percent response rate in each track. Then in each of these 60,000 tracks, they will randomly remove enough remaining addresses to add up to 10 percent of the total census track and then put them aside. Then they will do what is called a nonresponse follow-up with the homes not removed so they have actually counted 90 percent of the people in each track. Then they will conduct 60,000 simultaneous polls to estimate the other 10 percent in each census track.

This has never been tried before. The scope of this experiment is simply breathtaking. When you see a poll in the New York Times or CNN or USA Today the pollsters typically do one poll and survey 1,000 or so Americans. I saw a poll this morning that shows the President's approval ratings just went up again, which really has to make one question the accuracy of polling. But what this administration is talking about doing is 60,000 separate simultaneous polls at the same time. It has never been tried before and the potential for mistakes and errors is quite large.

That is just the beginning. After all this has been completed, they will conduct an extensive nationwide poll of 750,000 American households. This is

done to adjust the figures in all 60,000 census tracks. Some tracks will be added to, some subtracted from, based on this poll of 750,000 households. This 750,000 survey is called the Integrated Coverage Measurement or ICM. The administration claims the ICM will increase accuracy. That is a huge theoretical leap of faith. The Commerce Inspector General says, "Because of its complexity, the ICM is highly vulnerable. In particular, the survey's magnitude, quality demands, and tight schedule all present serious challenges." He added, "Estimation associated with the ICM survey in particular faces lingering methodological questions." In other words, it is not at all clear that the experiment will increase accuracy at all. We need to work together and get the most accurate, best census we can for the year 2000, not test or try experiments.

#### SALUTING UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with great pride, because the smallest State in the country, Rhode Island, has one of the greatest basketball teams in the country, the University of Rhode Island. It won its game just two days ago against one of the powerhouses of this country, the University of Kansas, in an outstanding game that pitted a very small, some people would say even very slow, untalented basketball team against one of the giants. A team like Kansas, that had two first-team all-Americans, was unbeatable by the critics' viewpoint. Rhode Island did not have a chance. As a matter of fact, most of them did not think they had a chance against a smaller team called Murray State. But Rhode Island proved them wrong. They proved their critics wrong. More importantly, what they brought to our small State was great pride.

I am here this morning because as an alum of the University of Rhode Island, my daughter also an alumnus and my son a freshman, we could not be more happy. All of the people in the State of Rhode Island, all 1 million people, are ecstatic about what has happened. We have proven that small schools are still alive and doing well in the NCAA. We have proven that no matter what the odds may be, no matter how big the task may be, no matter how big the obstacle, even a small team in a small State can overcome those. We are extremely proud of our university, of all the things that they have become, but more importantly of their future. We look forward to Friday evening's basketball game against Valparaiso, and we join with our colleagues over there to have a celebration on Saturday