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Congress has appropriated a total of sixteen million dollars for a census of agriculture which will be taken during the fiscal year that began July the first. I am sure we are all generally familiar with the nature of a census. They are taken to obtain data on our population, business, and other activities. This current census will be, will cover farming. All those who engage in the profession of agriculture in the United States are to be covered in the course of this survey. Delaware will, of course, participate, and therefore, it seems to me, that those engaged in farming will be interested to know something about this undertaking. It will be carried out in two ways. First, questionnaires will be mailed to farm operators who will be asked to fill them out. About October first, individual census takers will call on farmers to collect the completed questionnaires, and if necessary, to assist in filling out the report form. About thirty thousand census takers, who are called enumerators, will carry out this function under the leadership of about two thousand crew leaders. Field offices will be established as headquarters for the operation. The census in Delaware will be conducted under the supervision of a field office established in Baltimore. However, it is to be expected that a number of Delawareans will be employed as enumerators to actually take the census in our state. Their work will probably begin in Delaware about the end of October and continue until the project is completed. Included in the information to be sought will be such things as the age and race of farm operators, number and size of farms, acreage of land and their various uses, crops, livestock, expenditures for labor hire, machine hire, food, fertilizer, lime, gasoline and other petroleum fuels and oils, inventories of selected facilities and equipment, irrigation, conservation practices, farm value, and many others. It is only natural to ask why this information is being sought. The Department of Commerce informs me that the data obtained will provide the foundation for the entire structure of the nation’s agricultural statistics. Congress and the executive agencies will use the information to develop and administer farm programs. State and local agencies, farm organizations, and others serving the farmer, will
use the census data in their enumerations of the farm economy in their areas. Manufacturers will use the statistics to major resources for agricultural raw material and to determine the farmer’s needs for machines and supplies. The data will also be helpful to those who market farm products, to bankers and other financing services, to advertisers, and of course, to farmers themselves who may want to apply the census data to their individual problems. This current census of agriculture is not a new project. Actually, it will be the sixteenth in a series of nationwide farm enumerations. The first of these was conducted in 1840. The Census Bureau authorities tell me that on the average, each farmer will be asked about one hundred questions, many of which can be answered by “yes” or “no” on the questionnaire. I am certain that the census of agriculture in our state will be mutually beneficial to all of us who are concerned with the general economy of Delaware. For that reason, I felt it would be helpful to discuss this matter briefly on this occasion for the information of all.

[05:00]

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. In this broadcast, Mr. Frear has discussed the forthcoming census of agriculture. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in the nation’s capital.

[End 05:27]