



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20233

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MAY 23 1969

Mr. Vicente T. Ximenes  
Chairman, Inter-Agency Committee  
on Mexican Affairs  
1800 G Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Mr. Ximenes:

This is in response to your recent inquiry.

We have recently reviewed again the questions regarding persons of Mexican-American and Spanish origins for the 1970 census. As a result, we will have a more comprehensive coverage of this group in the population than previously.

The census will again ask for the country of birth of the individual and of his father and mother. This will serve to identify first and second generation persons from other countries, including the Spanish-speaking countries.

The question on mother tongue is as follows:

"What language, other than English, was spoken in this person's home when he was a child?"

The respondent is asked to check one of the following choices:

Spanish	Other--
French	Specify _____
German	None, English only

We have now added a question:

Is this person's origin or descent--

Mexican	Central or South American
Puerto Rican	Other Spanish
Cuban	No, none of these

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-2-

These questions will be asked in all parts of the United States.

We also plan to repeat the coding of Spanish surnames, as in 1960, in the five southwestern States.

Although we have not fully worked out the tabulation of these items, we believe that through these several questions we will be able to meet the needs for information on these ethnic groups.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Ross Eckler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

A. ROSS ECKLER  
Director