

Secretary:

- Mr. Hooper,
A.425/59 No 5 below.
Please see attached
brochure which I
picked up - Dublin
last Friday.
Should we not go back?
John
15/11*
1. Please see papers beginning with my letter of 23rd August to Mr. Greeves, Home Affairs. They can be summarised as follows.
 2. The Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 provides for a census to be taken in the year 1966 and that the census day shall be Sunday, 24th April, or such other day, being Sunday, as may be fixed by the Governor in Council.
 3. A census is being held in Great Britain on 24th April. It is desirable though not essential that ours should be held on the same day. This has been the invariable practice in the past.
 4. In Northern Ireland it has been our practice to make use of the police as enumerators. This results in a considerable saving to public funds.
 5. Easter Monday 1916 fell on 24th April and the R.U.C. consider that any celebrations of its fiftieth anniversary in 1966 are likely to culminate on that day rather than on Easter Monday 1966 which falls on 10th April.
 6. As a result the R.U.C. are unable to give any assurance that they will be able to act as enumerators either over the whole of Northern Ireland or in selected parts on that date. Further, they do not expect to be able to say until next May at the earliest whether they could do the job in the period, say, from mid-May onwards.
 7. A period of 5 months is needed to ensure that forms are printed and prepared for distribution and also to build up a team of civilian enumerators. A decision cannot, therefore, be postponed much longer.
 8. Enumeration by civilians means an extra cost of the order of £61,000. Recruiting a team of 2,000/2,100 civilian enumerators has also its problems. Persons of reasonable intelligence are required and this makes it difficult to recruit in sufficient numbers from the register of unemployed.
 9. The R.U.C. advise against holding a census, even with civilian enumerators, on 24th April.
 10. The Registrar-General and Dr. Park while strongly preferring 24th April as a census date, are prepared if necessary to accept an alternative.
 11. The possibilities, allowing for the need to avoid holiday periods, therefore seem to be as follows:-

(a) 24th April

The disadvantages include: extra cost of civilian enumerators and going against I.G.'s advice.

The advantages include: no need for public explanation of reasons for change of date (though absence of R.U.C. enumerators will have to be explained); and compatibility with Great Britain census.

(b) May or June

Disadvantages: civilian enumerators; different date from Great Britain; need to explain change of date and method.

Advantage: not too remote from Great Britain date.

/(c) October

(c) October

Disadvantages: greater remoteness from Great Britain date; need to explain change of date.

Advantage: greater likelihood that R.U.C. can co-operate and so save money.

12. The choice between (b) and (c) is not easy. On the whole I would prefer to wait till ~~September~~ and save £61,000 even though the usefulness of the results to Somerset House may be negated by the wide separation of census dates.
13. Presumably we could only scratch the fixture all together by repealing the 1965 Act.

John

10th November, 1965.

Ministry of Finance,
STORMONT.