



**Morris Hansen
Memorial Lecture Series**

Morris Howard Hansen has been described as the most influential statistician in the development of survey methodology in the twentieth century. Early in his Census Bureau career he put together a staff to define the principal problems in the conduct of surveys, investigate these problems, and develop statistical methods to address them. Morris and his staff then widely distributed the results of their efforts, thus influencing statistical agencies all over the world. Generations of statistical students have learned from and been influenced by *Sample Survey Methods and Theory, Volumes I and II* by Hansen, Hurwitz, and Madow, which are commonly referred to by the authors' names instead of the title, and Hansen's other publications.

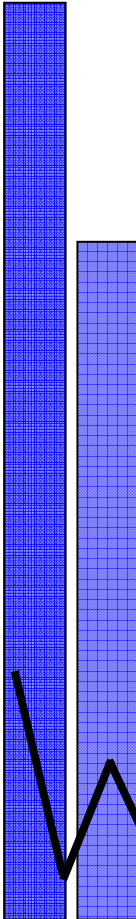
Morris was also known as a procedures innovator and was a leader in adapting electronic tools, such as computers and mark-reading sensors, to statistics. After his outstanding Census Bureau career, Morris joined Westat which was at the time a fairly small statistical research company. Morris again assembled a strong staff and expanded Westat's scope to take on large Federal government statistical problems.

Morris also made outstanding contributions to professional organizations, serving as the President of both the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and as the first president of the International Association of Survey Statisticians. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1976 and was an important member of many Academy committees and panels.

There have been many tributes to Morris since his death in 1990, such as memorial issues of both the *Journal of Official Statistics* and *Survey Methodology*. Westat issued a grant to the Washington Statistical Society to honor Morris with an annual lecture series. The series has been so successful in attracting top quality presentations on a wide variety of topics—in keeping with Morris' broad interests—that Westat has added to the original grant.

Sponsors
The Washington Statistical Society
Westat
The National Agricultural Statistics Service

18th ANNUAL MORRIS HANSEN LECTURE



**The Federal Statistical System:
Is It Stronger Now Than It Was
Eight Years Ago?**

Charles Louis Kincannon
Former Director
U.S. Bureau of the Census

Tuesday, October 28, 2008
3:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Jefferson Auditorium
USDA South Building
Independence Ave. (between 12th and 14th Streets)
Smithsonian Metro Station (Blue/Orange Lines)
For expedited entry to USDA, pre-register at
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/>



Charles Louis Kincannon was nominated as Director of the Census Bureau by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 2002. He retired in January 2008, and is the longest serving director since the Eisenhower Administration. He began his career as a statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau in 1963 after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin. Kincannon held various posts at Census and also at OMB. He was Deputy Director at Census from 1982 to 1992. In 1992, he was appointed as the first chief statistician in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris to coordinate the organization's statistical programs, as well as advise the OECD secretary general on statistical policy.

He currently serves on the board of directors of Capitol Hill Village, a nonprofit membership organization that helps neighbors stay in their homes as they grow older.

Lecture Abstract The Federal Statistical System proposed to spend almost \$6 billion in 2008 and employ almost 25,000 staff. The statistics produced by the system shape decisions in government at all levels, but also guide business investment and planning, scientific research, and myriad other activities public and private in our country. This paper examines the system that produces the statistics that so affect our lives. It will argue that examination of certain basic aspects of the statistical system define its strength:

- Selection and appointment of leadership,
- autonomy in appointment and development of staff,
- organizational placement of statistical agencies, and
- system-wide leadership, coordination, and maintenance of the fundamental activities that ensure the statistics produced describe the world we live in today.

Finally, and with well advised caution, the paper examines yet again the organization of the system. Almost any organizational structure is to some degree dysfunctional. The question is whether the degree of dysfunction in the current system is sufficient to warrant change and whether there are practical and feasible improvements worth considering.

Program

Jefferson Auditorium
U.S. Department of Agriculture
South Building

Tuesday, October 28, 2008
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Opening Remarks

Norman M. Bradburn
Chair, Hansen Lecture Committee

Chair

Tommy Wright
U.S. Bureau of the Census

Keynote Speaker

Charles Louis Kincannon
Director, U.S. Bureau of the Census (retired)

Discussants

Janet Norwood
Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics (retired)

Robert Parker
Chief Statistician, GAO (retired)

Program Committee

Norman M. Bradburn (Chair)
Trena Ezzati-Rice
Carol House
Keith Rust
Rick Valiant
Tommy Wright

Reception

Patio, Department of Agriculture
Jamie L. Whitten Building
(Across Independence Avenue)
5:30–6:30 p.m.