

# SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I've decided to make myself available to do some undercover investigation work. Now if I could get someone to give me a large sum of money in an unmarked envelope, I'd have a starting point, and a very good time."

# OPINION

## Brezhnev like Big Bad Wolf

Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev bears a striking resemblance to the Big Bad Wolf who devoured Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother and then tried to con Little Red by staging an impersonation of the late, lamented granny.

After ordering more than 80,000 Russian troops into Afghanistan to slaughter tens of thousands of Afghan rebels and use nerve gas against those opposed to becoming slaves of the Kremlin, Brezhnev now has called for a "continuation of detente," "curbing of the arms race," "an end to the conflict situations in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Near East," and "establishment of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean."

Now that the forces of "Nice Guy" Leonid have almost surrounded the Middle East oil fields and have marshalled large numbers of troops, tanks and other armored vehicles on the borders of Iran and Pakistan, this "kindly" Russian leader wants to reassure everyone of the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions.

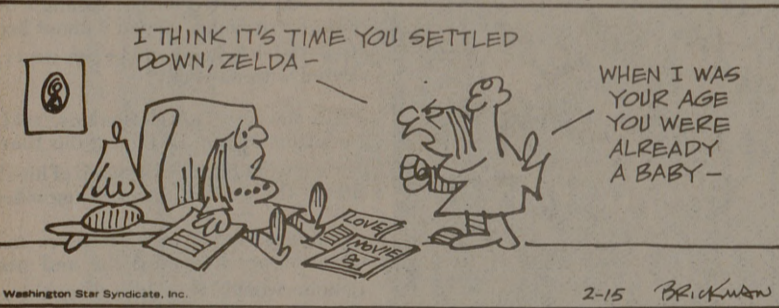
And just to show that he isn't afraid of dissent, "Peaceloving" Leonid has sent Andrei Sakharov to Gorki to shut him up and keep him away from counter-revolutionary Western reporters.

What big eyes you have, Chairman Brezhnev. What big ears you have. What big teeth you have. All the better to grab a country and chomp it to death, eh, Granny?

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

the small society

by Brickman



# THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of

### MEMBER

Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor ..... Roy Bragg  
Associate Editor ..... Keith Taylor  
News Editor ..... Rusty Cawley  
Asst. News Editor ..... Karen Cornelison  
Copy Editor ..... Dillard Stone  
Sports Editor ..... Mike Burrichter  
Focus Editor ..... Rhonda Watters  
City Editor ..... Louie Arthur  
Campus Editor ..... Diane Blake  
Staff Writers ..... Nancy Andersen,  
Tricia Brunhart, Angelique Copeland,  
Laura Cortez, Meril Edwards,  
Carol Hancock, Kathleen McElroy,  
Debbie Nelson, Richard Oliver,  
Tim Sager, Steve Sisney,  
Becky Swanson, Andy Williams

Chief Photographer ..... Lynn Blanco  
Photographers ..... Lee Roy Leschper,  
Paul Childress, Steve Clark, Ed Cunniss

Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY  
FEBRUARY 15, 1980

## Washington Window

# Census to cost over \$1 billion

By DONALD LAMBRO  
United Press International

Beginning April 1, the government is going to ask you some personal questions about your marriage, separation or divorce, your toilets, bedrooms, and kitchen, your mortgage payments and ancestral background.

These and other subjects are in the government's 1980 census, the costliest and some say the most complex census ever undertaken in the United States.

Nearly 90 million questionnaires will be sent to households across the country. Anyone refusing to answer them may be liable to federal prosecution and a \$100 fine.

Most of the census will be done by mail, but those who do not respond will be visited by government census-takers, as many as 250,000 of them, who will ask these questions in person.

All of this costs money, big money. The latest estimate places the cost at over \$1 billion, or more than \$4 per person, over four times what it cost to count the population in 1970. Federal auditors predict the 1990 census will cost \$2 billion.

Among other things, Uncle Sam wants to know how many bedrooms, bathrooms and telephones you have; whether you have a bathtub or shower, or both; whether you have air conditioning and if so, how many units.

The government also wants to know how many times you have been married, divorced, separated, or widowed; how many hours you worked last week; how you got to work; how long it takes you to commute; your mortgage payments; what your house is worth; how well you speak English; where you lived five years ago; your race or ancestry.

Most Americans will get one of two forms. The short form, sent to 78 percent of the population, takes an estimated 15 minutes to fill out. The long form, sent to the other 22 percent, is supposed to take 45 minutes to complete, but for many it will take much longer. A college-educated Washington Post reporter wrestled with the long form for over 75 minutes.

The Census Bureau has been counting the population since 1790, although in the beginning Washington confined itself solely

to what the Constitution requires: that Americans be counted every 10 years solely to determine how many seats each state is to have in the House of Representatives.

Since then, however, the census has grown into a complex and lengthy sociological and demographic survey in search of precise and often personal data about every man, woman and child in America.

One of the chief reasons behind the government's desire for data about population, income and ethnic origins is the massive expansion of federal assistance programs. At least \$50 billion a year in grants and other aid to states and localities hinge upon the census' figures.

Even so, many critics of the census say its inquiries far exceed the need for this type of information, producing mountains of data unnecessarily demanded by bureaucrats, academics, sociologists, trade associations and industries.

"A lot of this information is simply unnecessary to the efficient performance of government programs," one knowledgeable

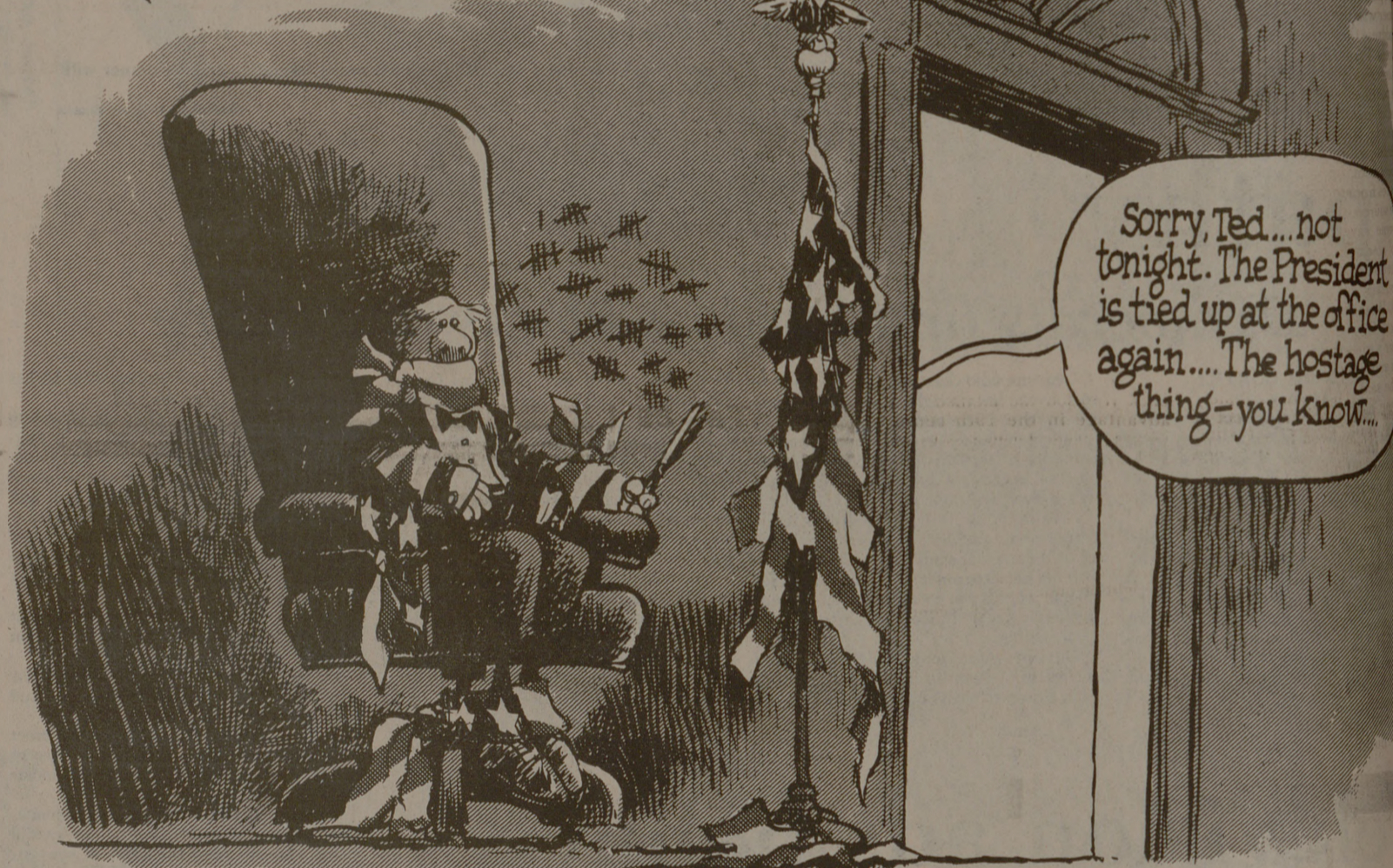
House committee aide says. The General Accounting Office, Congress' auditing arm, has been highly critical of the census' sharply increasing cost, charging that if the count is conducted as it was in 1970, the tab would be close to \$400 million.

Most of this added cost is being borne by Congress' approval of what it believes is a misguided effort to increase the number of seats in the House of Representatives. The bureau estimates that the population has increased 2.7 percent or about 5.1 million people since 1970.

Rather than spend huge amounts of money on elaborate new programs, GAO officials say that Census could arrive at a relatively accurate count through statistically proven methods and then add the figures to population totals.

And if you are thinking that the only census comes once every 10 years, again, Congress has ordered another census five years from now.

MAX NEELY THE RICHMOND NEWS LEADER © 1980 BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



# LETTERS

## Silent majority talks about crises

Editor:

I am writing this letter because there are some things that need to be said by whom I believe to be the silent majority. The United States is being threatened at all angles by Communist, Socialist, and third world countries. This is not news to any of us for the papers bear evidence to the fact. Not only is the U.S. being threatened, but many small democratic countries are suffering under Communist aggression as well. At the height of these crises, President Carter strikes a blow for the free world when he calls for the reinstatement of the draft and threatens war for Communist aggression. And the first cries that are

heard are "We don't want another Viet Nam!"

Nor do I. I don't like backing out on friends and allies. We fought that war to try and prevent precisely what is happening now in Cambodia and Viet Nam. They have become cannibalistic societies of mass genocide because of Communist aggression and our unwillingness to stop it. And after all the small pawns of countries are under Communist control, the U.S. will fall. Believe it; this is the Communist doctrine. I refuse to see this happen. Therefore, if war comes and I get drafted, I will fight with all my heart and spirit because my mother, my sister, my friends, and my country are all worth it. I refuse to see Americans die from

starvation. I refuse to see Communist tyranny laugh in our faces if they finally get the upper hand. But what is the most unbelievable part of this entire saga, is that there are vocalists who support this very idea. They stage anti-draft rallies. They call the draft "selective slavery." They say, "Let the all-volunteer army fight the war. The draft made us lose in Viet Nam." The majority of the all volunteer army couldn't uniformly get on a bus and travel to Dallas without suffering a casualty. The all-volunteer army has failed. We lost in Viet Nam not because of the drafted army, but because it was a politicians war. And we know what many politicians are like. But I am not angered over this, for everybody has the

right to speak their mind. What is unfair and angers me the most are the drafters who threaten to leave this country if the draft is reinstated. These people are self-centered they couldn't care less if a fellow American, or for that matter any human being, dies. When these people leave this great country, I say good-bye. America will be the greater for it. And to those people I say Feliz Navidad Joyeux Noel depending on whether you are north or south. And for those who are in this silent majority, be damn proud that you are Americans and not cowards.

Bill McSpadden  
Scott Briggs

# THOTZ

By Doug Graham

