

ACTION FOR A VOLUNTARY CENSUS:

People who oppose the questions on the 1980 Census are taking action to end this disgraceful measure once and for all. They are fed up with government interference and the consequences of it.

DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING?

We recommend that you write letters *right now* to your two Senators and your Congressman demanding that they support and encourage those bills already introduced in Congress to make the non-head count questions strictly voluntary. We urge you to have your friends do the same. Also, you might write letters to the editor of all the local papers asking that citizens join in this protest.

If such legislative action doesn't come soon enough, thousands of Americans are expected to refuse to answer the Census. They will return this questionnaire with an attached ACTION CARD (enclosed) detailing their refusal to be coerced. If many people take this line, the legislators may push a bill through making the Census voluntary; if not for this one, then for the next one.

The fine for refusal to answer can be \$100 to \$500. This was levied *only twice* in 1960 and in 1970 cases against Census resisters were dropped in court. If thousands say NO to the Census, then the government would probably find the costs of prosecution prohibitive. Some people plan to resist at first and only comply under protest, when they are sure the fine is to be levied.

The ACTION CARD gives the three choices you may decide to make. It should be marked and one half returned to us so that we may know how many are joining this protest. The other half goes back to the Census Bureau with your questionnaire. If you can, we would appreciate a small contribution for our fight on the legal front.

We will be taking this case to federal court when the government makes the move to fine the first person who refuses to answer the questions. We will take this case as high as possible in testing the constitutionality of the Census questioning and its invasion of the individual's right to privacy. If we win, there will be no fines for the rest of the resisters.

Are you willing to strike a blow for individual freedom? THOUSANDS ARE!! Will you help them throw a roadblock in front of an onrushing government little concerned with what your rights mean to you? **STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS!**



an educational project from:

VOLUNTARY CENSUS COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 4

Fullerton, CA 92632

Write for Census Resistance 1980 Action Cards, 5 for \$1
A Committee of Society for Libertarian Life (SLL)

APRIL 1, 1980 is

"National Census Protest Day!"

THE CENSUS



Big Brother is Snooping

Many citizens are resisting these intrusions, here's how . . .

BIG BROTHER WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

Along about the end of March 1980 you, if you are an "occupant" of a dwelling, will receive in the mail an official government Census form. You will be required to fill out a minimum of nineteen questions, many of which violate your right to privacy. Twenty per cent of you will have to sit down and fill out sixty-five questions which delve even deeper into the personal affairs of your household.

The Census is taken every ten years by the United States government as provided in the Constitution. The Constitutional purpose of the Census is to "enumerate" the population so that seats in Congress can be allocated among the states in proportion to the number of residents in each state.

But the Census goes far beyond this Constitutional provision for a simple head count, and it is these additional aspects of the Census which prompt a chorus of protests from all people who value their privacy and freedom from governmental interference and snooping.

Why, these people ask, should a citizen be compelled to answer these questions under penalty of law—a fine from \$100 to \$500.

The government claims that only compulsion will make the gathering of these additional statistics possible.

DRAWING THE LINE:

There is a basic philosophical issue which underlines the dispute about census questions and the criminal penalties. It has been stated in a variety of forms, but fundamentally it comes down to this:

Where should the line be drawn between the government's alleged need for information and the individual's right to privacy—the right to keep information to himself (as upheld by the Bill of Rights) and to refuse to give answers to the Census Taker's questions?

The place to draw the line between the government and the individual is right here on this Census. The line is clear in the Constitution and its Bill of Rights. The line is between freedom and compulsion. That is why more and more Americans, backed by many Congressional leaders from both parties and of all persuasions, are now asking that all the questions beyond the head count questions be made *voluntary*.

These are some of the questions the government may expect you to answer (under penalty of law, remember) which are none of their business:

"What is your racial and ethnic background?"

"Do you have a flush toilet?"

"What is the value of your property?"

"Did you raise and sell any crops on your land in 1979?"

"What are your fuel costs?"

"Do you have air conditioning?"

"How much are your mortgage payments?"

"How do you travel to work?"

"What was your total income in 1979?"

"Have you served in the Armed Forces?"

"If this is a girl or woman, how many babies has she ever had, not counting stillbirths?"

"Did this person work at any time last week?"

"Has this person been married more than once?"

"If you pay by the month, what is your rent?"

And so on. Asked one congressman, "In our Republic, can criminal penalties properly attach in a statistical survey for non-compliance to such items?" His own answer, "Clearly not."

Now maybe you like to answer questions, or don't consider that your privacy is invaded by such queries. Fine, but why should those who do not want to answer these questions, who don't wish their privacy invaded, who feel that **THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO ASK SUCH QUESTIONS**, be made to do so, and made subject to penalties?

(Incidentally, there will be two by-products of the Census which you may not like. "Junk" mail results from government making these statistics available to commercial interests. And taxes will never go down as the statistics are pulled every which way to justify more and more government spending.)

The real issue is not the drift of the questions but the right to require an answer to questions at all. Do we wish to stand by and let government continue to get bigger and more powerful? Do we want to avert the spectre of a Big Brother snooping into every nook and cranny of our lives?

If you wish to help strike a blow for freedom of the individual, then read the reverse side of this brochure which tells you how to fight back!