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vast undercount. According to figures quoted in a House hearing, pretests for the 1970 census show a declining response to the questionnaire: Louisville (1964), 84 percent; Cleveland (1965), 75 percent; New Haven (1967), 72 percent; and North Philadelphia, under 40 percent. This form requires an 8th-grade education and a minimum of 33 minutes to complete, provided the respondents have the information and willingness to cooperate.

2) Among many Americans there is growing resistance to the built-in harassment of the proposed 1970 census. I predict refusals to answer the utility questions and those of a very personal nature will be high if the threat of fine and jail is not removed. That all questions justify mandatory response is wholly unjustifiable.

3) The crux of the issue is: Which is more important, the number of toilets, and so forth, in America or a complete headcount? I suggest that the Census Bureau will get a hodgepodge on both unless alternative ways to get detailed population, household, and employment data are developed. May I advance this proposal for your readers' consideration: defer many of the questions to a sample household survey to be conducted every 2 years, leaving the decennial census to serve its constitutional function—a headcount of the population for apportionment purposes.

Census policy has concerned itself exclusively with the user community which, over the years, has caused the decennial questionnaire to grow like topsy. I represent more than a trivial group in Congress and the nation when I urge reform on behalf of the statistical givers, their privacy, and their tolerance.

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Who Stages Military Coups?

Scott (Letters, 29 Mar.) mars an otherwise thoughtful discussion of draft policy by saying "One alternative, a large professional army, is so potentially dangerous from the viewpoint of a possible military coup and dictatorship that it should not even be considered." Is there any reason to believe this? Has any correlation been shown between the absence of conscription and the incidence of coups? I think not. Nor is this surprising. After all, coups are usually

staged by colonels and generals, who are nearly always professionals even in conscript armies.

For that matter, why should we assume that professional soldiers are any less committed to their nation's institutions than are civilians or conscripts? We might more easily suppose the reverse, since they have chosen to risk their lives in their nation's service. The occurrence of a military coup is no evidence that the military are any more disaffected or megalomaniacal than other elements of the society; the obvious explanation is that they are the element with the best chance of succeeding in a coup, and therefore the most likely to try. I suggest that the military coup is a symptom of a sickness of the whole society, and not of anything peculiar to military professionalism.

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Fireflies of Thailand

My thanks to *Science* and the Bucks for the very interesting report on fireflies ("Mechanism of rhythmic synchronous flashing of fireflies," 22 Mar., p. 1319). How resourceful are the male fireflies of Thailand thus to enhance the signal-to-noise ratio for reception of the female response!

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Buchanan at St. John's College

The announcement of the death of Scott Buchanan (12 Apr., p. 174) incorrectly identified him with St. John's University; it should have read St. John's College, in Annapolis, Maryland. Buchanan was dean of St. John's and Stringfellow Barr was its president in 1937 when they introduced its "radically traditional" curriculum involving the "great books." During recent years these men have been fellows of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, California. Buchanan's lively mind and trenchant wit will be greatly missed by all whose lives touched his.

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