

People counting has changed since 1790

The main problem in taking a census is counting the people. Robert Keith of the University's Bureau of Governmental Research and Service told a Census Seminar at the University Wednesday afternoon that the problem with taking the census is "how do you count the people that are abroad, in the service, or in jail on April 1, every ten years when the population and housing census is taken?"

By NAN HENDERSON
Of the Emerald

"Because of this difficulty the Bureau does not have any illusions as to the precision of the census," Keith continued. "The Bureau feels that if they can come within three per cent of the actual figures it is a good census. Generally the census is an undercount."

Keith told about 40 people who had gathered for the seminar that the census has changed greatly since its origination in 1790. "The census, since then has certainly developed beyond the original purpose of simply counting the people to determine required legislative representation."

Keith commented on the expense of the census. "In the 1970 census, the Bureau spent about one dollar per person counting people in the country."

He cautioned potential users of census data. "If you are going to use the census, use the definitions included in census publications. An example of differing definitions would be between a family and a

household. Though you might think they are the same they are not, according to census definition.

"The Census Bureau does a very good job of defining their terms. I can't stress enough the importance of using these definitions," Keith concluded.

The availability of the 1970 census was explained. This year, for the first time, the Census Bureau has recorded census summaries on magnetic tape. According to Keith the idea behind the Summary Tape User Program, as it is called, is to make the information available as soon as it is needed.

Portland State University and the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service are working together to establish a census tape center in Oregon. Six tapes containing social, economic, population and housing data for different geographic areas in Oregon will be available.

In the 1970 census 20 questions were asked of all the population. Other questions in varying numbers were asked of smaller percentages to get a random sample of information concerning employment, vocational training, disabilities, second homes, etc.

The six tapes for Oregon have information based on the first twenty questions and the sample questions. The data is also divided according to geographic locations such as specific cities, counties, etc.

Though the 1970 tapes have not yet arrived, Keith urged persons wanting census information to contact the University's Bureau of Governmental Research and Service.

Leggett . . .

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the CSA and ASA reports to mean "Dr. Leggett's professional academic and ethical qualifications are clearly consistent with those expected of staff members at this University and in this department."

They concluded, "We deplore the University's use of criteria other than professional qualifications. We vigorously protest this action and strongly urge that the Administration limit the criteria by which it makes appointments to academic, professional and ethical fitness. Consideration of possible political criticism is clearly not an appropriate criterion upon which to base such a decision."

Leggett, in the eyes of some faculty members, would fill a gap in the University sociology

department. Leggett has published articles on working class consciousness and has done work in the field of "white attitudes toward blacks" according to Johnson.

Johnson, on the subject of Leggett's academic qualifications, said, "The academic issue has not to me been essential. He is certainly acceptable to the department in that light." Johnson added, "No looser standards than normal were applied to Leggett in terms of intellectual criteria."

Tuesday afternoon Clark met with members of the sociology faculty and Sociology Forum who protested his decision. President Clark, when questioned if members of the University community had approached him on changing his decision, replied, "I am sure that that was the intent of some of those who spoke with me earlier this week."

Clark also told the Emerald he was not considering changing his decision nor was he considering reopening the case.

Ron Eachus told the Emerald he would make efforts to "start a program through the SEARCH office which would bring to the school professors which have been denied appointments by the administration. I don't know for sure, but we might be able to get Leggett to come here on a part-time basis at least."

Leggett, who was last reported in New York discussing the publication of his book, has not been available for comment.

Planning group discusses land

The "1990" plan for land use of the Eugene-Springfield area was discussed Thursday by the Campus Planning Committee meeting in 101 EMU. The Committee is currently deciding whether or not they should or should not make a recommendation on the plan to University President Robert Clark.

One phase of the "1990" land use plan calls for the construction of a freeway North of campus and the closure of Franklin Boulevard. The Committee has previously taken a stand against the construction of any freeway north of campus.

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