

THE SILENT MAJORITY

With the interest in noise control growing louder and louder in the Congressional chambers on Capitol Hill we thought it interesting to silently probe into the situation. Because the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Federal Noise Control Act have made provisions for noise control, it is important that every citizen be aware of what's expected of him in bringing an honorable peace to the country.

Here's what we found going on at the recent meeting of the American Society for the Prevention of Noise.

What seems to be the greatest problem in making the United States a more quiet place, we asked Joe Softpaws, president of the society. "Shhhhhh. You're making too much noise," he whispered. "We have to find ways to get our message across to the American citizen that noise is bad. So far we've ruled out television because it's too noisy. Radio isn't bad, but with all that hard rock on the air these days, it's an almost hopeless case."

What about print media — newspapers, magazines, newsletters, we whispered.

"There's nothing wrong with newspapers," said Joe scratching his left ear, "but think of all the noise those printing presses make. Why it's enough to drive a man to drink."

Then communications is out because it's too noisy. Have you considered standing on a stump like Abraham Lincoln did and deliver quiet oratory?

"Let's be reasonable," quipped Joe. "About the only way we can communicate under the present no noise laws is to show a good example by being quiet."

Then the silent majority is actually communicating by saying nothing, we said. Vice-president Agnew was wrong about the great mass of American voters. They are actually speaking their mind by not speaking at all.

"That's right, and we need even more of them to commit themselves to our effort. You see once we stop talking we start communicating," Joe said as he rolled a cigarette.

Let's get on to some of the other issues. We understand that arborists are now using beavers for tree pruning because chain saws make too much noise.

Joe nodded his head and pointed to an arborist in the crowd. "There's a man who used to own three chain saws and a chipper. Now he's using beavers. When one beaver wears out he retires it to his beaver farm and grabs another. He's not making much money in his tree business any more, but his beaver pelts are selling like hotcakes."

On the other side of the room stood a golf superintendent with a long beard. "See that man," he cried. "When he stopped mowing turfgrass he also quit shaving. Too much noise — on the course and in the bathroom. Instead he's employed a local shepherd and a flock of sheep to keep the grass trimmed. Don't do a bad job, either. I played the course the other day. Only hit three woolies and one brown goat."

Is the objective of this august organization to eliminate all noise we asked.

"If you'd just be quiet long enough for our executive director to make his presentation you'd know the answer to that question," Joe screeched.

Sure enough, executive director Tightlips Smith was standing on the platform before the delegates. Suddenly to our surprise we heard a sound coming from nowhere.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Tightlips said without moving his lips, "it gives me great pleasure to address you today. We have reached a new high in communi-

cations. It's called ventriloquism. You hear sound without seeing my lips moving. I think it is a revolutionary idea, one which should keep the FBI and the Federal government guessing who violates the Noise Control Law for some time."

Sadly we shook our head. If this is where we are heading then let's get home to practice quickly. We want to be the first one who can snafu the government. After all wasn't it Teddy Roosevelt who said, "Walk quietly and carry a big stick."

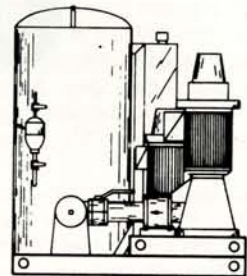
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