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To the Editor:

The repeated reference to 521 versus seventeen electoral votes as a measure of strength of the opposing sides in the elections creates a false picture. Thirty million against 45 million is the true reality and it not the same as 521 against seventeen.

Moreover, one should realize that each vote cast for Senator McGovern against an incumbent President weighs on the sociopolitical scale more than a vote for the incumbent President. In these circumstances the crushing defeat for McGovern was not so crushing. He remains a power to reckon with.

LEON BERKMAN
New York, Nov. 8, 1972

To the Editor:

The Nixon vote has been reported as a landslide. Really?

The percentage of eligible voters who actually participated in the 1972 election is 55.35 percent (Associated Press), the lowest participation since the Truman election of 1948.

If we multiply 55.35 by Nixon's 61 per cent, we get 33.7 for Mr. Nixon's percentage of the eligible 1972 voters —one-third.

Two-thirds of the eligible voters either did not vote or vote for George McGovern.

Is 33.7 percent a landslide? Hardly.

SAUL D. LARKS
Santa Monica, Calif., Nov. 9, 1972

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The analysis of the election that Nixon at long last won the consent of the majority to govern is factually untrue. Of the 129 million registered voters (eligible voters obviously exceed this number) 43 million or one-third voted for Nixon, 86 million or two-thirds abstained or voted for McGovern. What does this mean? . . .

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