

DRAFT REGISTRATION CANCELLED

The mass draft registration scheduled for March 31 has been cancelled. The Administration slashed the Selective Service System (SSS) budget from this year's \$41.4 million to a proposed figure of \$8.3 million for next year. The SSS is to go into "deep standby", with no registration or classification. Most of the staff is to be laid off this month and all local boards will be closed. A small national headquarters will be maintained, as will be skeletal state office and five regional offices.

The SSS is to serve only a planning function. It will maintain detailed plans for resumption of registration, classification and inductions; for which it will utilize the computerized Emergency Military Manpower Procurement System. It would be ready to issue induction orders within 90 days of reactivation.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) has introduced a bill (S. 2234) to abolish the SSS (along with a dozen other agencies). The Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), has announced it will soon hold hearings on the possible elimination of the SSS. Its ranking minority member, Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.), favors abolition of the SSS.

The Defense Manpower Commission, a study commission due to issue its final report on April 19, is fighting the SSS cuts and is urging that registration and classification under the draft continue. It is also expected to propose adoption of "national service" - a system of combined military and civilian conscription of all youth.

Urge Senators and Representatives to take this opportunity to eliminate the SSS and repeal the draft; and to oppose any new conscription system.

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