

From the horse's mouth ...

Lottery assures immunity to no one

By Steve Patch

When it comes to the draft lottery, just about everyone thinks he's an expert.

There's not a single male in the 19-26 age group on campus who can't tell you how lucky ol' Joe is with number 310 or how bad it looks for George, whose birthdate was 43rd out of the jar.

And you'll hunt for a long time before you'll find the individual incapable of reciting the White House guideline that predicts induction for those young men whose birthdates were drawn in the first third of the lottery, uncertainty for those in the second and immunity for those in the third group.

Some people will tell you to join the reserves or enlist if your number happens to be low. By dropping your college deferment now, say others, you lucky ones with numbers in the upper third can get your draft exposure over with and not have to worry about serving. It's all very simple, they insist.

One person who might reasonably be called a real expert on the subject of the draft contends that it is not all that simple.

Not simple

Navy Capt. Chester Chastek, Washington state director of the Selective Service, said the most important thing he can tell college students about the new draft lottery is "it really changes nothing more than the order of induction."

Chastek urged all students to finish college and not attempt to second-guess the lottery system.

"The young man with a high lottery number may or may not

be relatively safe from the draft," said Chastek. "A lot depends upon the nature of his own draft board, his personal classification status and the national induction demands."

"On the other hand," he continued, "one cannot say, for the same reasons, that the person with a low number will necessarily be drafted. The lottery did not affect deferments; the individual with the low lottery number can be deferred now just as easily as before the drawing."

White House statement

As to the statement released by White House officials saying that those in the first third will almost certainly be drafted, those in the last third, almost certainly will not, and all others almost certainly will be completely baffled, Chastek had this to say:

"I can't buy it, but I'm not about to say it could not possibly be true--just that it would be foolish of any draft-age man to assume that it will always hold true."

"However, I didn't say it, and the Selective Service didn't say it, so it's really not for us to pass judgment on the statement."

Chastek admitted, however, that some draft boards could conceivably induct all of their available men to meet their quotas while others might not have to draft even a single man.

Chastek termed these examples extreme, however, and expressed the belief that a compromise between the two would be the case with most draft boards.

Too early to predict

The first call of the 1970 draft pool has been made in Washington state, but as yet none of these calls have actually been filled, according to state authorities.

"For this reason," stated Chastek, "it's a little premature to predict anything as to the number of birthdates actually drawn from to meet the quotas of each local board."

"It's one thing to say what a given local board's call was," he continued, "but quite another to predict just how far into the available draft pool it will actually go."

In spite of the numerous uncertainties which have presented themselves, as a result of the draft lottery, to citizens and Selective Service officials alike, there exist several questions to which answers are readily available. The following are a few of the questions deemed especially important by Chastek, and the director's answers:

Deferment dropping

--Can a student drop his college deferment simply upon his own request while remaining a student?

According to Chastek, all draftable men are entitled to the lowest possible classification offered them by their situations. For this reason, a student can have no classification higher than a student deferment, or II-S, as long as he is meeting basic university requirements.

In other words, stated Chastek, it is theoretically impossible for a young man to remain in school and at the same time be classified I-A.

--Can an individual who is classified I-A wait until he thinks his local draft board is close to calling his number and then be deferred, thus leaving the draft pool?

Under certain conditions, said Chastek, this can be done. The way the system works, he continued, in order to be drafted during a given draft pool, an individual must be classified I-A either at the time his number is drawn, or at the end of the year during which it was drawn.

To illustrate this, Chastek used two imaginary cases.

"Suppose an individual was classified I-A for the first ten months of 1970, and then became deferred. At this time, we'll say his draft board reached and passed his number. Even though he had been susceptible to the consequences of that year's draft pool for 10 of its 12 months, he would not be held to its outcome. As soon as his deferment expired, however, he would be put into the new draft pool."

"If, however, this same individual had been deferred at the time his number had been reached by his draft board, but was classified I-A later in that same year, he would be called for induction."

Loophole found

This brings up an interesting loophole in the lottery system which Chastek admits could be significant. As the system now stands, Chastek explained, a deferred individual could conceivably follow the progress of his own Selective Service board and choose to become I-A late in a year during which it appears his number would not be reached.

He would thus have faced his year of prime draft availability in what could easily have amounted to a month or even less, according to Chastek.

--Is it likely that those men whose birthdays were drawn during the first third of the lottery, believing they will be drafted anyway, will enlist and thereby force the call further up into the next two-thirds of the draft pool?

"There may certainly be some who will decide to enlist," said Chastek, "but they will have no effect upon the extent to which a draft board will go into its available draft pool in meeting the national demands."

According to Chastek, more enlistments would have no more effect than possibly making it easier for draft officials.

"The government calls for the induction of a certain number of men each year," said Chastek. "For every one person who enlists there is one person who consequently does not have to be drafted."

A lot of talk

--There have been a number of critical comments levelled at the draft lottery, but one of the most frequently raised objections has been that it was not random, and therefore, unfair. What is your opinion?

"In my opinion, there was a random selection and the resulting system is perfectly fair," said Chastek. "There has been some talk about having a re-drawing, but as far as I'm concerned, it's a lot of talk, and that's all."

Selective Service authorities have stated it will be at least mid-February before they can say just how far into available draft pools local boards went during January. And, they add, it will be even later--possibly June or July--before they can make any comprehensive analysis of the new draft system.

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Tour will study San Francisco social problems

Homosexuality and drug addiction, problems particularly serious in large cities, will be among the social problems studied during a planned tour of San Francisco, scheduled for spring vacation.

The Glide Memorial Church sponsors the tours around the city as well as discussions on the social problems observed.

The trip would cost about \$100 per person including a registration fee for the program, transportation and room and board. Everyone would be required to take part in all activities.

A bus with room for approximately 40 people will be chartered if enough people sign up for the trip.

Those interested should contact the YMCA office in the third floor CUB.


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