

Resisters face felony charge in draft issue

The fires of civil protest are again being fanned by the seemingly inextinguishable draft issue. This week, beginning Feb. 28, all those 18-20-year-olds who didn't register for the draft were "technically" federal felons. The deadline for the grace period was Sunday, yet, draft officials are saying they will allow registrants a couple of weeks, just in case they didn't "get the word."

According to reports, nearly a million potential registrants failed to observe the Reagan administration's second deadline. That may indicate those who chose not to register did indeed "get the word."

However, the Reagan administration's stand has become tougher. Thomas Turnage, director of the Selective Service, said, "the Justice Department will initiate appropriate enforcement action." That "appropriate" action for failure to register is a prosecutable felony punishable by a jail term of up to five years, a \$10,000 fine, or both. Attorney General William French Smith has promised to prosecute those who didn't register.

It is inconceivable that nearly a million registration resisters will be brought to trial by the government. The government will probably choose a handful of cases to prosecute — and do so in selected areas of the country. From the government's point of view, prosecuting a registration resister may frighten those not yet registered into compliance.

The prosecution of registration resisters amounts to coercion of those who oppose the concept of mandatory registration.

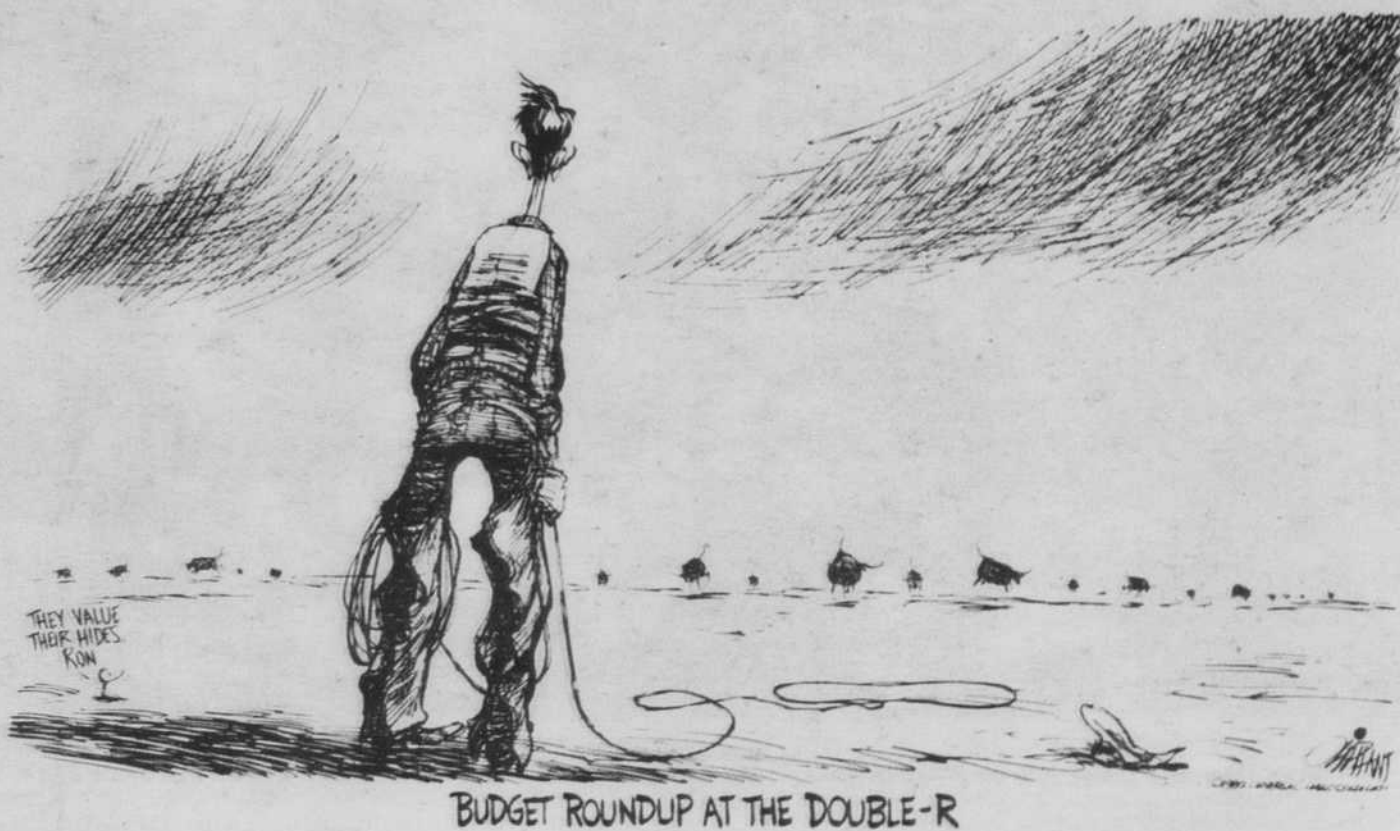
All signs indicate that registration was the precursor to reinstitution of the draft that the government said it wasn't. On March 20 the selective Service will stage a "mock call-up" of 1,000 army reservists to test the system. A larger "mock call-up" is planned for sometime this year.

Why would the government be testing the draft apparatus and be willing to prosecute registration resisters if a full-scale draft were not imminent?

Beyond all the rhetoric lies the individual's dilemma. Groups such as Eugene's Coalition Opposing Registration and the Draft are against the entire mechanism of government draft registration, but it all comes down to the 18-year-old either registering or not by the dictates of their conscience. No group, nor government, can dic-

tate what that decision should be. The 18-year-old, in good conscience, knowing the risk involved, has to live with his decision.

Perhaps the conception that history repeats itself is indeed accurate. On March 11 an anti-draft demonstration will be held at the Federal Building in Eugene. Add to this the reinstitution of the draft, and a trial for a registration resister, and the 1980s will resemble the 1960s. It's a shame the same ground has to be gone over time and again.



letters

Male curfew

I saw the male curfew notices on the University campus and after reading your article on them, I feel the need to comment. At first I thought that they were amusing, but after thinking about them for a while I realized that they made an important point. I often feel frightened on the streets after dark. Even though a curfew for men may not be a realistic answer, hopefully the notices made other people think.

A group of my friends were discussing the notices and we were surprised to find that the men among us did not realize that even walking to a night class is very scary. None of us realized how common rape is. The poster pointed out that well over 100 rapes were reported in Eugene last year. That makes more than two rapes reported every week. It really makes you think, doesn't it?

Sarah Buckley
Sociology

Servile

Congratulations. In their servile desire to please their peer group, the editors of the Emerald have missed the real story of the Springfield ratepayers march.

The huge increases in some electrical bills that brought people into the streets of Springfield has nothing to do with WPPSS. In an attempt to conserve electricity SUB changed the rate structure so that the more you use, the more you pay. Consequently, some people are facing bills in the \$150-\$200 range. Termination of WPPSS reactors 3 and 5 has not affected electric bills yet and its effect on heavy users will be much smaller than the change in the rate of structure.

DeFazio, Ratley and Dix are well aware of this, I'm sure. They care little for the Springfield ratepayer; their only interest is in their blind war against WPPSS and advancing their tacky political careers. They are

engaged in the shabbyist bit of demagogery I have seen since the days of Richard Nixon.

This is the real story behind the Springfield protest, three shameless politicians hoping that people will be too stupid to know what is really going on. Obviously they have gauged the I.Q. of the Emerald editorial staff accurately.

Jim Linn
Molecular biology

Pluralism

Last October when Paul Olum was formally installed as 13th President of the University, one of the inaugural events was a symposium on the challenges facing American public universities in the 1980's. Among the participants in that stimulating exchange of ideas were Harold Enarson, president emeritus, Ohio State Univ.; and William Boyd, immediate past president of the University.

In their remarks, both Enarson and Boyd included higher

education's responsibility to assist students to deal effectively with problems of alienation and questions of identity. I believe it was Boyd who asserted that during the recent past we may have "made a new god of pluralism," and that universities must help today's students to see themselves as whole human beings.

I was reminded of those observations the other day when Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, a black American, formally announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination for governor of California.

When the matter of his race was broached during a press conference following his announcement, Bradley responded by noting that voters will decide, as they have in several previous elections in Los Angeles, on the basis of demonstrated competence and the contenders' proposed political programs — rather than on the basis of irrelevant factors such as race.

I applaud Bradley's "wholistic

perspective." And I shall continue to encourage those of us who belong to non-white American minority groups to learn to accept our racial characteristics as only one component of a much larger mosaic of personal identity.

Ronald J. Rousseve
Professor of
Counselor Education

letters policy

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The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to The Emerald offices, EMU 300.

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