

\*PATRIOTS AGAINST REGISTRATION AND THE DRAFT

10:30 am on Sept. 5, 1980

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\*CHICAGO COALITION AGAINST REGISTRATION AND THE DRAFT

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Selective Service System Fabricated Registration Compliance Statistics to Conceal Massive Draft Resistance.

Yesterday the Selective Service announced their preliminary statistics on compliance with President Carter's draft registration plan. The SSS claims that 93 % of 3.88 million men who were legally required to register did so. Bernard Rostker, director of the SSS, says that he is "not unhappy" with these figures. We are. They are wrong. They contradict all other compliance statistics. They were fabricated, deliberately, to conceal the massive resistance to registration which has been and is taking place in Chicago and throughout the country. Mr. Rostker should be unhappy with his own figures, for even they prove the failure of Carter's registration program.

What percentage did not register? All men born in 1960 or 1961 were supposed to have registered by Aug. 2. On Aug. 4, we in Chicago calculated that 19,500 (32 1/2%) of those here had yet to sign up. That same day, compiling figures from many cities, the Committee Against Registration and the Draft announced that at least 500,000 (12 1/2%) had not registered nationally. On Aug. 27, the Boston Globe concluded that there were "a million or so nonregistrants" (25%). "The draft registration program appears to be, if not a failure, at least in serious trouble." Now the SSS says that 287,000 (7%) have still not complied with the registration law.

The Globe surveyed "large postal districts that cover more than 10% of the nation's population" and estimated that the result "is probably accurate to within a few percent." The SSS tells us that it is inaccurate by 257%.

Who is lying?

The Globe said 4,076,000 men are supposed to register, based on the 1970 census. The SSS says 3,880,000 men are supposed to register, based on the 1970 census. Did

they read different editions of the census? (Until Aug. 2, for that matter, the SSS was saying that 4,000,000 men are supposed to register. Have 120,000 fled already?)

Bernard Rostker said before and during registration that he would consider 2% noncompliance a success. What does he consider 7% noncompliance to be? He has refused to characterize it as either a success or a failure. We characterize it as a failure.

The 287,000 that the SSS admits haven't registered are 3 1/2 times the 80,000 they expected. The million we believe have not registered are 12 1/2 times what they expected. And we do believe that one million men did not register.

The government has admitted to the Supreme Court that the success of draft registration "depends upon the voluntary cooperation of the registrants." They need our cooperation, and they are trying three means of getting it: force, fear, and fraud.

Force can't work. There is as yet no money for any enforcement of registration. The SSS does not now have access to most government files that could locate the no-shows. The Justice Department and FBI have no plans for registration enforcement. Most important, the federal government prosecutes only 40,000 cases of all sorts in each year, and there are backlogs in all federal courts. It imprisons only 25,000 people at a time, and all federal prisons are full. One million resisters give government force no chance.

So they tried fear. They threatened to prosecute all who didn't register on time; now they "invite" them to register late without penalty. They said they would prosecute all nonregistrants; now they admit that they will only prosecute a few "as examples". They haven't intimidated us.

All they've got left is fraud, and that's failing them too. First, in the face of large-scale protests, they predicted only 2% wouldn't register. Then, during registration, when it became obvious that far more than that weren't signing up, the SSS tried to claim that the no-shows would turn up at post offices later in the week. At the end of the week, when they hadn't turned up, the SSS claimed that they must have registered someplace else. Now that national figures show that they didn't register anywhere, the SSS has fabricated its own figures. They are trying to hide most of the resistance,

but even they have admitted that it is far greater than expected.

So now they tell us that they never really thought that everyone would register on time. They'll all register, they now tell us,....eventually.

Are you one of them? Did you register?

If you haven't registered, you have many choices:

---you can register...or you can stay home

---you can help Bernard Rostker keep his job...or you can stay home

---you could even go to war...or you could stay home.

Whatever you do, you're not alone. Whatever you do, we're with you.

Think about it.

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