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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 10, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of the National Selective Service System, today has informed me that the mixup in which hundreds of Michigan college students have been directed to take draft deferment tests hundreds of miles away from their campuses or hometowns will be "straightened out."

"They may not get the exact date they want, but they'll be able to take the tests in their own areas," Gen. Hershey told me.

Referring to the fact that instructions went out to the Michigan students telling them to report to test sites in Mississippi and Massachusetts, the General said "nobody from Michigan is going to Mississippi or to Massachusetts, either." "We'll get this thing straightened out," he added.

I called Gen. Hershey when I learned of the mixup and heard that Col. Arthur D. Holmes, the Michigan selective service director, was unable to get any satisfaction from Science Research Associates, the Chicago firm conducting the tests for National Selective Service Headquarters. Science Research had told Col. Holmes it was "too late" and there was "nothing they could do about it at this late date."

Gen. Hershey had a few unkind things to say about computers.

"I don't know how it happened," he said. "I'm just an old pencil-pusher, myself."

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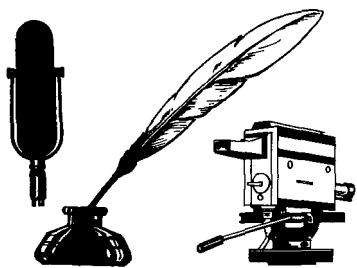
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**CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--
February 21, 1970

I fully concur with the President's Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force that we should move toward an all-volunteer military as quickly as possible.

The commission proposes allowing the Selective Service Act to expire as of June 30, 1971. There is good reason to believe that this would not only be desirable but feasible. Meantime we should overhaul the draft law, raise first-term military pay, and expand the role and capability of our reserve forces.

I have long advocated an end to the draft once the United States combat role in Vietnam is reduced to the point where the draft no longer is necessary. Today I reaffirm that advocacy. The only way to end all of the inequities in the draft is to end the draft itself.

It appears to me that President Nixon's program for ending the U.S. ground combat role in Vietnam through Vietnamization of the war will make it feasible to carry out the recommendations of his Commission on an All-Volunteer Armed Force.

The commission has done an excellent job of analyzing the pros and cons of an all-volunteer military. Each of its members deserves the thanks of the American people.

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U. S. HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

REP. JOHN J. RHODES, (R.-ARIZ.) CHAIRMAN • 1616 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING • TELEPHONE 225-6168

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92nd Congress
First Session

March 30, 1971
Statement Number 1

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON H.R. 6531

AMENDING THE MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT OF 1967

"For greater equity we will further revise Selective Service policies... When military manpower needs can be appreciably reduced, we will place the Selective Service System on standby and substitute a voluntary force obtained through adequate pay and career incentives."

Republican Platform, 1968

The House Republican Policy Committee supports the passage of H.R. 6531, Amending the Military Selective Service Act of 1967.

Tremendous progress has been made by President Nixon in effecting the orderly and responsible withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam. The early, 1969, U.S. troop level in Vietnam of approximately 550,000 will fall below 284,000 by May 1st of this year. Reflecting the substantial lessening of combat action, the 1970 draft call was the smallest since 1964, before the major commitment of U.S. forces in Southeast Asia.

Consistent with the Republican promise of draft reduction and reform, the President has recommended legislative action to facilitate a two-year transition from conscription to an all-volunteer military force. An extension of induction authority is required if we are to maintain, in the interim, the size and quality

(over)

of the armed forces necessary for our Nation's security. The proposed draft reforms will enable us to work toward the objective of a zero draft call.

To insure a military force adequate to maintain the Nation's security, a continuation of induction authority is essential. To achieve the goal of zero draft calls, passage of the legislative proposals to make military service more attractive and rewarding, as provided by H.R. 6531, is urgently required.

The House Republican Policy Committee recommends the passage of H.R. 6531, Amending the Military Selective Service Act of 1967.



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