

Students favor draft registration plan

By Lynn Mongar

Five UNL students interviewed Monday said they would register for a possible draft, if Congress completes action on a measure that would allocate \$13.3 million to fund the registration process.

The Senate passed the measure last Thursday, which would register about 4 million 19- and 20-year-old men in preparation for a possible resumption of the draft. The House had approved the registration plan, but still must act on an amendment the Senate added to the legislation.

In January, President Carter requested the resumption of the peacetime draft registration in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Four of the students interviewed agreed that the draft registration would be a firm response to the Iranian crisis and Afghanistan.

However, Clark Nelson, a senior chemical engineering major, questioned

whether the draft registration is a firm message to would-be aggressors.

"I think we need to concentrate more on technology than on manpower." He said that if war developed, it would be a nuclear war, and probably would not involve soldiers. Nelson also said he thought the United States lags behind the Soviet Union in war technology.

If war developed, Nelson said, he would go, but reluctantly.

"I wouldn't want to leave the country," he said.

Denny Jorgenson, 19, a sophomore accounting major, said he thought the resumption of the draft registration will demonstrate that the United States "still can raise an army."

"The rest of the country will feel a little more secure," he said.

John Richardson, 20, a junior broadcasting major, said he does not think that the resumption of draft registration increases the possibility for war.

"My brother was registered and he was never drafted.

"It doesn't mean that I'm automatically going to be drafted.

"But," he said, "if the need arises then we'll be ready."

He also said he would favor everyone serving a "year or two," in some government agency.

John Tawzer, 20, a junior business major, also said he would register for the draft.

"It's a pride booster, and a military strength booster," he said.

"I see it as an act of pride. It doesn't mean that we're going to war."

Tawzer said the draft registration will prepare the United States for a possible war, and "show other countries we have some guts."

Marty Adams, 20, a marketing major, said he favors the draft registration.

"I believe in the saying that there is peace in strength."

"I think foreign powers are likely to be more aggressive if the United States takes a passive attitude."

However, at least one student group, the Progressive Student Union, is opposed to the registration process. PSU organized a demonstration in February against the draft registration. But, a PSU spokesperson said that the group has not met since May, and no plans have been made to protest the Congressional measure.

An off-campus group, Nebraskans for Peace, is discussing possible protests against the draft registration.

Nebraskans for Peace spokesperson, Betty Olson said she thought the draft registration is a step toward war.

"I agree with (Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon) that it will send a signal to the Soviet Union that we are a divided people. It's meaningless and it interferes with the lives of thousands of young people."

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