

Director: Registration without prosecution likely

By Jim Wegman

Although Ronald Reagan's grace period is over (Jan. 7 to March 1), there is still time to register with the Selective Service without fear of prosecution, said Nebraska's Selective Service Director Malcolm Hardin.

Hardin advises and represents Gov. Charles Thone on Selective Service legislative matters and supervises the training of National Guard Selective Service personnel. In the case of a national emergency, he would be responsible for activating the draft in Nebraska.

"It's my belief for at least the next 30-day period they would not be prosecuted," Hardin said of those males who have failed to register for the draft.

The penalty for not registering is either five years in prison or a \$10,000 fine.

Males born between Jan. 1, 1960 and Jan. 31, 1964 are required to register for the draft. They must do so 30 days before or after their 18th birthday.

The National Selective Service has publicly declared that it "will carry out a program of full compliance with the registration law," according to the National Selective Service in Washington.

"This will include action against persons whose names

were referred by the Selective Service to the Department of Justice prior to Jan. 8 in the event those persons failed to register during the grace period," the Washington office said.

Before the Justice Department can start prosecuting individuals, however, lists of those registered during the grace period must be compared with lists of known violators, Hardin said.

Small-town post offices send in their registration cards once a month while larger post offices send them every two weeks. Thus, it will take some time to find out who registered and who didn't.

Selective Service computers have different lists. A "known violators list" includes names given by relatives or acquaintances, and those who went public in their refusal to register, said Hardin.

There also is a list of known violators according to social security numbers, Hardin said. The use of such a list for criminal prosecution, however, is being debated in the federal courts and may not be resolved for at least another year, he said.

Hardin said that flagrant violators — those persons who have said, "I didn't register, and what are you going to do about it" — would probably be the first prosecuted. It

hasn't been revealed whether this will be done on a random or full-force basis, he said.

The rest of the violators are mostly young men who never got around to registering, or because of a lack of publicity, forgot about it, said Hardin.

"Let's be realistic, the average 18-year-old is thinking about his next date, the next party, the next football game. The Selective Service probably is not the most important thing in the world to an 18-year-old," Hardin said.

He encourages those who haven't done so to register. It is unlikely that anyone in this latter group would be prosecuted in the next 60 to 90 days, Hardin said.

"History has shown us that eventually about 97 to 99 percent will register," he said.

During an eight-month period before the grace period, 90 percent of those required to register in Nebraska did so. In California that percentage during the same period was only about 55 to 60 percent, Hardin said.

"It's not a victimless crime. If 10 percent don't register it increases the chance for those that registered to get picked in a draft," said Hardin.

The Selective Service has been in a "standby" position from the start of the All-Volunteer Force in 1973 until late July and August 1980.

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Shorts

The Student Y and Woman's Resource Center are sponsoring "Women in Law Enforcement" Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union 117.

The Rodeo Club will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the East Union. Room number will be posted.

Dr. Norman Cromwell, from the NU Medical Center, will speak about how to avoid cancer and other recent developments in research linking cancer and the environment at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Regency Suite of the Nebraska Union.

The Latin American Solidarity Committee will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

Flutist William Bennett and pianist Clifford Benson will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Kimball Recital Hall.

Nearly 40 Canadian and American scholars will make presentations during "Intersections: Studies in the Canadian and American Great Plains," Thursday through Saturday at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education.

A fourth workshop on videodisc design and production will be March 21 through 25, sponsored by the Nebraska Videodisc Design/Production Group.

UNL students for Life will sponsor a workshop Saturday on East Campus. The workshop will include films, discussions and two meals. Registration forms for the event can be picked up in the Nebraska Union 200.