

These figures relate to a non-Vietnam situation, when our military strength reverts to its peace-time level of about 2.65 million men. This was the July 1965 level. Now, as the force level approaches 3.5 million men, more and more of the qualified and available men voluntarily enlist, and more and more must be involuntarily inducted. Thus, the problem is today not so much picking one man out of seven, as it is being sure that the one out of two picked and sent to Vietnam is picked in the fairest possible way.

In sum, then, there are two compelling reasons for adopting a random selection system of determining the order of call. The first is the desire to raise the element of equity to as high a degree as possible. The second is the imperative of numbers, of choosing one man out of seven.

My bill would require that the determination of order of induction be made by random selection. I have not written into the bill itself a specific plan for a lottery, as I prefer to give the President a measure of discretion in drawing up a plan and modifying it as conditions dictate. It is my understanding that a number of alternative random selection systems have been prepared by the executive branch, although they are not available for discussion publicly.

I have in the past proposed a specific plan for a random selection system. Under this plan, the Director of Selective Service would publish each month a list of numbers corresponding to the days in that month. Thus, there would appear on the list the numbers 1 to 31 for January, 1 to 28, or 29, for February, and so on. But these numbers would be arranged in a random sequence, which had been determined by a computer or some other means. The numbers for January, in this example, might read 11, 22, 7, 18, and so forth.

The Director of Selective Service would also set monthly quotas for each State, as he does now. Each State would set quotas for each local board in the State, as it does now. These quotas are based on proportionate formulas which involve the number of qualified and eligible registrants in a specific jurisdiction related to the number of such registrants in the Nation or State as a whole.

Each local board would also have, for each month, a pool of eligible young men. These men would be either 19-year-olds or constructive 19-year-olds, as I will later explain. In a non-Vietnam situation, this pool would have seven times as many men in it as are needed to meet the quota. Under the pressures of today's Vietnam requirements, the pool might have two or three times as many men as are needed to meet the quota.

If a local board, under this proposal, had a quota of 10 men for January, it might have 70 men eligible for induction. To choose the 10, it would refer to the list published by the Selective Service Director for January. Under this example, the first number was 11, the second 22, the third 7, and so forth. The local board selects first the man or men born on the 11th of January, next the man or men born on the 22d, and so forth until the quota of 10 men had been reached. These 10 would then be inducted. The remaining 60 men would not be called, but would, of course, continue to remain liable in the event of a national emergency. But these 60 would not be called until the pool of men in the following month had been exhausted. Thus, once the selection for a given month, had been made, those not selected could be reasonably certain of their status and make their plans accordingly.

Some local boards might face the difficulty of choosing between different men born on the same day. This apparent problem could be easily solved by arranging the letters of the alphabet in a random sequence for each month, and then choosing on the basis of the first letter of the last name.

I want to emphasize that the plan I have just outlined is intended only as an illustration of the feasibility of a random selection system. Under the actual term of my bill, local and State quotas would be replaced by regional quotas, or by a national quota, depending upon which organizational alternative the President actually instituted. A national system would be the most equitable, and I would personally favor it. The Marshall Commission report describes how a random selection system based on national quotas would work.

In short, random selection is workable. I hope that we can have some definite action, and action soon, to permit the introduction of a random selection system. In this regard, let me quote from Senate remarks by the distinguished chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Richard Russell, during the June 14, 1967, debate on the conference report on the Selective Service bill:

"The President has stated that the random system should be started before the first day of January 1969; and if he will propose, or the Senator from Massachu-