

Capital Reviews Draft

WASHINGTON (CPS) — The draft system has become a controversial topic on Capitol Hill as well as college campuses.

First, there was general disagreement with Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, head of the Selective Service System, when he supported Michigan Selective Service officials in reclassifying students who had demonstrated at the Ann Arbor office as I-A, or ready for immediate induction.

Then there was talk about a "universal draft" as opposed to the present "Selective Service System" and still more talk about student deferments and who should get them.

Now a group of 30 Republican Representatives have called for an "immediate" Congressional investigation of the draft.

Spokesmen for the group said the call was not a political one. No Democrats were listed simply because the announcement was made before the matter had been discussed with Democratic Representatives.

The Republican group, led by Rep. Robert F. Ellsworth of Kansas, said there was mounting evidence of "gross inefficiency in the National Selective Service System and the Department of Defense administration of the draft."

There was no immediate comment on the proposed investigation by Selective Service officials but Gen. Hershey did refer to it indirectly at a luncheon appearance.

"I have always understood one of the functions of the Congress is to look into how well the laws they pass are carried out," he said.

Hershey was explicit, however, when asked if he thought the Selective Service System ought to be reorganized.

"No," he declared. "That's the plain and unadulterated answer. You shouldn't do anything to something that is working."

The general conceded that some inequities existed but said "absolute equity has never been attained."

He said the system has an "unmatched record" for efficiency and in the past five months over 170,000 men had been provided for conscription.

He would make no comment on charges by the Republican group that the upcoming deferment test will favor science students.

Meanwhile, elsewhere on Capitol Hill, the education subcommittee of the House was also talking about the draft. Earlier the committee had charged Gen. Hershey was "acting as a judge and jury in upholding local boards" when they reclassified student demonstrators as I-A.