

Draft Protesters First

Hershey Says Yes

WASHINGTON (CPS) — Students who protest the war and the draft by disrupting army induction centers or keeping military recruiters from conducting interviews should be drafted first, according to Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey.

Hershey has sent a notice to all members of the Selective Service system which says deferments should be given only to individuals who are acting in the national interest. Students and others who interfere with the military process are not acting in the national interest, and therefore their deferments should be discontinued, Hershey says.

"There can be no question that an individual who is engaged in violating the very law that deferred him cannot very well be acting in the national interest," Hershey said in a telephone interview.

The new Selective Service di-

(See **HERSHEY**, Page 2)

Hershey

(Continued from Page 1)

rective could affect thousands of students at campuses across the country who have been involved in recent protests designed to physically disrupt the military machine, specifically recruiting and induction.

Hershey admitted his letter to local draft boards is a reaction to the "disruptive and destructive" trend which protests have been taking. "There is a growing weariness on the part of the public, and Congressmen and a lot of others have been saying why in the devil don't you do something about these people," Hershey said.

However, the Selective Service director said his letter offers no new policies. "The law has been there all the time, and we are just encouraging that it be enforced."

Hershey said the directive is aimed only at those protesters who engage in "illegal activities and lawlessness. We are not trying to stop anybody from thinking or doing anything else as long as they are within the law."

Hershey's letter does not mention college students in particular nor specific anti-recruiting incidents, but the point is clear since most of the demonstrations which fall into the "disruptive" category have occurred on or near college campuses. However, Hershey said, "We are not just picking on college students. This applies to all persons who have deferments for any reason."

The authority for Hershey's directive comes from a section of the Selective Service law which provides penalties for individuals who "knowingly hinder or interfere or attempt to do so in any way by force or violence or otherwise" with the Selective Service system.

Hershey's letter said local boards "may reopen the classification" of protesters who perform illegal acts. "If evidence of violation of the (Selective Service) Act and Regulations is established," the local board should "declare the registrant to be a delinquent and to process him accordingly." Individuals who are declared delinquent are placed first in the order of call.

"If the United States Attor-

ney should desire to prosecute before the local board has ordered the registrant for induction, full cooperation will be given him," the letter continues.

Hershey said his letter also refers to persons who either burn or refuse to carry their draft cards. However, he said "about 75 percent of the pieces of paper which have been thrown around as draft cards probably are not."

The letter, or one similar to it, reportedly was sent to colleges and universities. Asked about this, Hershey said, "I'm sure this will receive wide distribution, but I don't know who all got it and when."

Referring to the protesters, the letter said, "It is to be hoped that misguided registrants will recognize the long-range significance of accepting their obligations now, rather than hereafter regretting their actions performed under unfortunate influences or misdirected emotions, or possibly honest but wholly illegal advice, or even completely vicious efforts to cripple, if not to destroy, the unity vital to the existence of a nation and the preservation of the liberties of each of our citizens."

Hershey also encouraged local boards to provide evidence of any efforts by non-registrants "to prevent induction or in any way interfere illegally" with the Selective Service Act to the national headquarters so that it may be made available to U.S. attorneys.

He also stressed that prosecution in the courts must follow for Selective Service registrants who fail to report as ordered, or refuse to be inducted.