

Senior May Lose Commission Due To Anti Viet Nam Action

LEXINGTON, Ky. (CPS) — A University of Kentucky senior may be the first ROTC student in the nation to lose his commission because of his activities in opposition to the war in Viet Nam.

Don Pratt, a campus leader and avid opponent of the war, will not receive a scheduled commission as a second lieutenant in the Army, a source close to Pratt revealed, due to "an agreement between Don and ROTC officials:"

Pratt said he would like to join the Peace Corps.

It was learned that Pratt agreed not to press the matter of an ROTC commission when confronted by ROTC officials about his anti-war activities.

When contacted about the alleged agreement, Pratt said, "I don't want to embarrass the ROTC personnel on campus in any way. Col. Parker (a professor of military science was very fair and just about it . . . I just feel that young men can best fight for their country in the Peace Corps."

Pratt stated that he is not a conscientious objector. He declined further comment on the commission agreement.

A spokesman in the Pentagon's Policy and Programs ROTC division in Washington said that such an agreement is unique in the history of processing and denying commissions.

"This type of situation has not come to our attention before," the Pentagon spokesman said. "The usual reason for cancellation of a commission is inaptitude which may involve lack of leadership or some other comparable problem."

The spokesman said that a "board of officers" on the college campus must recommend the cancellation to make it official. All recommendations of this type are reviewed by the Department of the Army in Washington.