

Students Feel Draft Threat

WASHINGTON (CPS) — College students had been expecting it for weeks, but when the selective service director announced last weekend that college students would be drafted to meet the demands of the growing military forces it was still a shock.

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, head of the Selective Service System, said the guidelines for local draft boards, "similar to those employed during the Korean conflict," will be issued soon. They will apply to current high school seniors and college students for the next academic year.

The announcement which had been expected when draft quotas continued above 30,000 a month, recalled that special test scores or class standings were used to determine deferment for future college study from 1952 to 1963.

Currently the primary requisite for college deferment is satisfactory pursuit of full-time college studies. But increases in military manpower authorized or proposed last August total 452,000, and

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drafting from colleges will tap a pool of more than 1,800,000 young men.

Hershey's announcement followed disclosure that the Army and Marine Corps would draft 32,900 men in March. The figure represented another trend upward after a decline to 29,400 in the February quota. Quotas for December and January were 45,229 and 38,280.

The guidelines for local boards are not mandatory, but generally determine draft status. Hershey called them "advisory criteria," which he said were decided after "consultation with other government agencies and leading education associations."

Negotiations have been started with testing agencies, he reported, and the certificate that schools submit to local boards to reflect student status is being revised to reflect class standings.

The detailed guidelines will be "issued in the near future" as soon as they are determined, he said.

The announcement seemed to apply to only the II-S category-- "registrant deferred because of activity in study" - and not to the I-Y group -- "qualified national emergency." The second category contains some young men who missed being drafted because of relatively minor physical or mental factors.

During the Korean war and long afterward colleges reported a student's standing at the end of each academic year. He generally could be deferred if he was in the upper half of his freshman class, the upper two-thirds of his sophomore class, or the upper three-fourths of his junior class.

He could also take a selective service college qualification test that called for a passing mark of 70 for undergraduates and 80 for students at the post-graduate level.