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SELECTIVE SERVICE

Q. The draft has been suspended for several years now, and our armed forces apparently have been able to meet their quotas with volunteers. Why do the American taxpayers still need to spend millions of dollars to operate a Selective Service System which no longer has anything to do? Do you support and will you urge Congress to abolish the Selective Service?

A. Recognizing that the all-volunteer force has been a great success, I have recommended that expenditures for the Selective Service System be cut from \$37 million in 1976 to \$6.8 million in fiscal year 1977. At the same time, we are dropping the requirement that all young men be registered.

The success of the all-volunteer force represents, I believe, one of the most significant advances in the last quarter of a century. For a whole generation of young people, it means greater personal freedom -- the ability to plan one's life without fear of conscription. Now our job is to maintain that freedom by maintaining the peace.

December 15, 1975

SUBJECT:

ADMINISTRATION PLANS RESTRUCTURING
OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

According to a UPI story, the President will issue a proclamation early next month restructuring the Selective Service System. The plan would institute a one-day national registration and abolish local draft boards.

What's your reaction to the UPI story? Will the President abolish the Selective Service System?

GUIDANCE: This is the time of the year when there is a lot of speculation about the Presidential Budget and Program Policies for the upcoming fiscal year.

At this point, all this speculation is nothing more than that. The President's program and policy and budget recommendations will go to the Congress in his State of the Union Message and in his Budget documents in January.

Is the Administration giving any consideration to abolishing the Selective Service System?

GUIDANCE: The Administration is continually looking very carefully at every program activity to see whether or not the cost is justified by the benefits that are provided.

JGC