

TOTALLY EMBARGOED  
UNTIL 11:30 A.M., EDT

SEPTEMBER 16, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY BOARD

The President has today established by Executive Order a nine member Presidential Clemency Board. The Board will review the records of two kinds of applicants. First, those who have been convicted of a draft evasion offense committed between August 4, 1964 and March 28, 1973, inclusive. Second, those who received a punitive or undesirable discharge from the armed forces because of a military absentee offense committed during the Vietnam era or are serving sentences of confinement for such violations. The Board will recommend clemency to the President on a case-by-case basis. In the absence of aggravating factors, the Clemency Board would be expected to recommend clemency.

When appropriate, the Board could recommend clemency conditioned upon the performance of some alternate service. In the case of a military absentee, the Board could also recommend that a clemency discharge be substituted for a punitive or undesirable discharge.

The Board has been instructed to give priority consideration to individuals currently confined. The President has also asked that their confinement be suspended as soon as possible, pending the Board's review.

The Board will consider the cases only of persons who apply before January 31, 1975. It is expected to complete its work not later than December 31, 1976.

# # # #