

Elderly Draft Board Members Cast Fate Of Young

By HAL COOPER
Associated Press Writer

All over America little groups of citizens, many of them elderly, decide today which young men will be drafted into uniform — perhaps to serve in Viet Nam.

Some young men go willingly, others only after exhausting every appeal.

In February alone, the elder

citizens will sift 29,400 young men out of the nation's population for induction.

Members of the 4,000 local draft boards receive no pay — and much abuse. Often they spend wearying hours at their task. Many of their decisions are agonizing. Some have qualms about the whole system.

D. A. Ghrist, 69, a banker, has

been on Board 84 in Kansas City, Kan., since the original draft on Oct. 16, 1940.

"When they asked me to serve, I thought it would be my patriotic duty," said Ghrist. "I still feel the same way. Some people conscientiously oppose the very idea of what we are doing, but it's a duty that must be fulfilled."

Another member of Board 84, who has served since early in World War II, is Otto Ziegelmeyer, 76, a retired lawyer. Drafting men who wind up in Viet Nam makes him uneasy.

"World War II concerned us all because we were in it," he said. "But you don't call this a war. Some board members, including myself, know that this has to be done, but don't heartily approve of it."

Gray-haired, motherly Wilma Crane has been clerk of Board 84 since its inception more than 25 years ago.

"We have very little trouble with our boys," she said. "It's the mothers who give us the most trouble. These women write in saying they condemn us for sending their boys to be shot at."

"I inducted my own son in 1956. And then I got a Mother's Day card that really broke me up. The sender said she hoped if I ever had a son he would be killed in the Army."

Local boards vary in size from three to five members, depending on the area's population density. Members are appointed by the President on the recommendation of state governors.

There are 95 appeal boards, one for each federal judicial district.

Appeal board decisions are usually final. But decisions decided by a split vote may be taken to the national Selective Service Appeal Board in Washington.

Maj. Malcolm F. Miller is head of Selective Service for Southern California.

"Board members are in a tough spot," he said. "They have quotas to fill, but they also have to protect the registrant and keep the community operating as close to normal as possible."

"They donate their time, supposedly about three hours a day, two days a month. In recent months, however, I've seen many boards sit down at 3 p.m. and not get up until midnight or later."

"Despite this, they stay on and

for years. Of 280 board members in Southern California, 36 have served for more than 20 years. I think it boils down to this: if you like people, you like

Selective Service work."

A wide variety of reasons why they should not be drafted are offered by reluctant dragoons in all parts of the country. Some

reasons are strange and wonderful.

"Dear Sir," read a letter to one board. "I am not going to the military service for nobody, so

just let me alone. So, don't send me no more forms. The service is for somebody who has nothing else to do. I've got things to do."

He's in the Army now.



SCHOLARSHIP, GRANT GIFTS

The Houston public accounting firm of Ernst and Ernst has presented the School of Business Administration with \$1,000 in scholarship and grant gifts. Clarence Isensee, left, partner in the firm, presents two \$500 checks to Dr. John E. Pearson, professor and head of the school. Funds go into an accountancy grant and accounting scholarship.

BA School Gets \$1,000 Grant

Ernst and Ernst, Houston public accounting firm, has donated \$1,000 to the School of Business Administration.

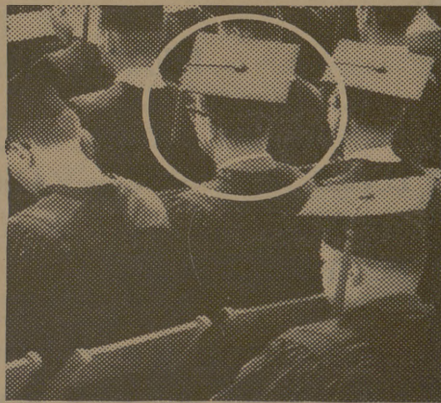
Clarence Isensee, partner in the firm, presented two checks of \$500 to Dr. John E. Pearson Wednesday. Pearson is professor and director of the School.

Funds were earmarked for an accountancy grant and an accounting scholarship. Qualifications for undergraduate recipients of the scholarship are to be set up, Pearson indicated.

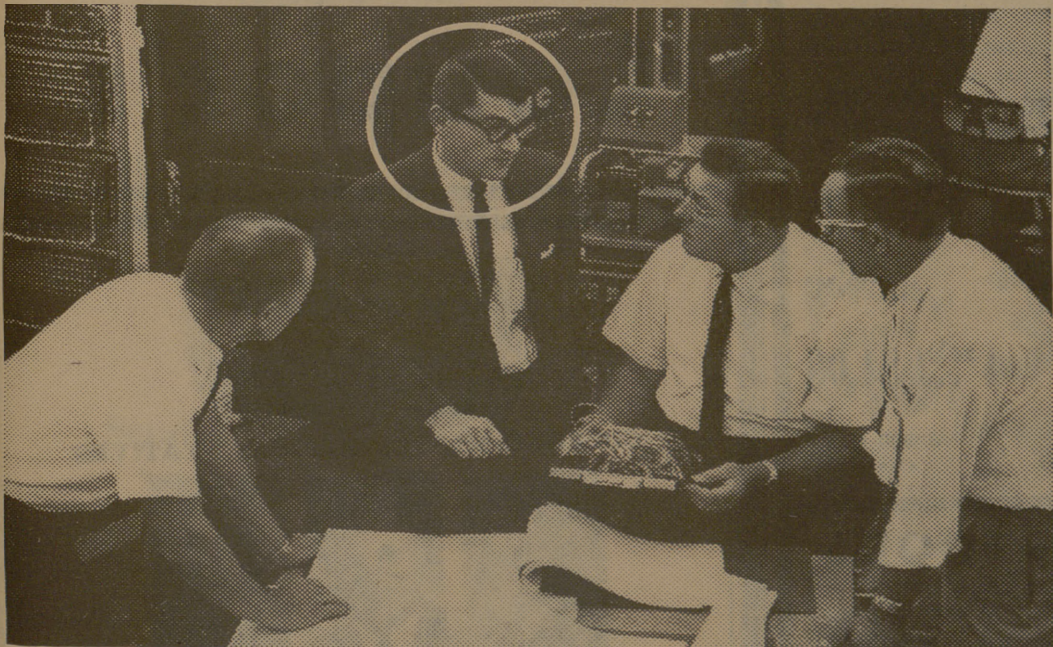
Ernst and Ernst suggested

scholarship candidates show outstanding ability and potential in accounting, with primary consideration given students not receiving assistance from other sources.

The accountancy grant is to assist school and accounting faculty in preliminary research studies, library acquisitions and maintenance, instructional program equipment and supplies, promotional materials and other activities in support of the accounting program.



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