

the nation

# Pro-draft plan to get more study

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — A proposal to resume registration of 18-year-olds — a move seen by opponents as a step toward the return of the military draft — has been condemned to further study.  
The decision by the House after a day-long debate Wednesday apparently signaled the doom of any pro-draft measure during the current session of Congress.  
The issue came up as the House worked on the \$42.1 billion defense authorization bill for 1980.  
The proposal would have re-

quired the Selective Service System to begin registering all 18-year-old males in 1981. It was defeated on two successive votes, 252-163 and 259-155.  
The proposal by Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., to strip the plan from the defense bill also provides for the president to make a study of the Selective Service situation, but that did not satisfy backers of the registration plan.  
Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., said there already have been 13 studies made, all indicating the United States could not

mobilize an adequate military force quickly enough in time of emergency or threatened war.  
Schroeder said the debate involves the nation's "most important national resource — its youth."  
She said the registration issue should be considered separately from the massive military authorization bill, which deals primarily with procurement of major weapons systems, research and development, and civil defense.  
Montgomery said if Selective Service registration were in effect during an international crisis, it

would save 60 days in the process of getting young men into uniform.  
"And 60 days could be the difference between winning and losing a war," he said.  
Rep. Richard White, D-Texas, said the nation's ready reserve and National Guard units, which would be used to supplement the regular, volunteer military units if the need arose, are in "deplorable" condition.  
Rep. Paul McCloskey, R-Calif., a former Marine officer, argued the reserves cannot meet their manpower goals "without the threat of

the draft in the background."  
But opponents said there is no proven need to resume registration, and the president already has standby authority to implement registration if an emergency threatens.  
Registration, they said, would be "an outrageous invasion" of young people's privacy.  
Rep. John Seiberling, D-Ohio, said if the security of the United States is ever clearly threatened, "young people will volunteer in the hundreds of thousands as they did after Pearl Harbor."

## Committee to consider heating bills

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — With the heating season only "weeks away" in many parts of the country, the Senate Select Committee on Aging Thursday opened hearings on an array of proposals to help the poor meet sharply increased fuel costs.  
"Caution that this winter is uncomfortably close," Sen. Lowell Weicker R-Conn., said in testimony supporting the "energy stamp" plan he has had before the Senate since 1977.  
"In many parts of the country the heating season is weeks away," Weicker said. "Even with consensus, it will be a miracle if adequate funds are made available in time to make a difference this winter."  
Chairman Lawton Chiles, D-Fla., said his committee — which does not handle legislation — is interested in airing the subject because of the many older people with fixed incomes or on welfare who are hard hit by higher fuel bills.  
The Senate Human Resources Committee will begin hearings later this month on six bills aimed at helping the poor meet their heating needs. The Senate Finance Committee has one such bill and will hold hearings soon.  
John Palmer, deputy assistant secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, told the panel on aging that President Carter's \$1.6 billion proposal for this winter, announced Wednesday, is the most workable plan. The legislation will be introduced next week, he said.  
Payments to help the low-income elderly and the handicapped meet heating costs would be administered through the existing Supplemental Security Income and Aid to Families with Dependent Children programs.  
"We are using these programs because they can distribute aid in the most timely fashion and because they target assistance to persons who have been determined to be most needy," Palmer said.  
The administration's proposal calls for continuing "crisis" aid available since 1977, and would provide help to people with incomes less than 25 percent above the official poverty level.  
The administration will offer a more extensive \$2.4 billion program to go into effect in 1981, Palmer said.  
Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md., and Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker have introduced a similar "fuel stamp" proposal tied to the Agriculture Department's food stamp program.

## National briefs

### Synthetic fuel increase forecast

**United Press International**  
TULSA, Okla. — Coal industry officials attending the International Petroleum Exposition say within 10 years America's ability to produce synthetic fuel should be greatly increased.  
The officials, in a symposium attended by oilmen from 61 countries, said Wednesday as the cost of synthetic fuels approaches the cost of conventional petroleum products, production should increase.  
"In less than 10 years, we should have developed processes extending this ability nationwide and broadening the range of liquid products which can be produced," J.R. Bowden, president of Conoco Coal Development Co., said.  
"No economic breakthroughs are in sight, but because of recent price increases of natural counterpart fuels, costs of synthetic fuels are only about 20 percent more expensive than marginal sources of natural fuels," Bowden said.

### H-bomb case reaches Round 2

CHICAGO — A small monthly magazine contends the secret of the hydrogen bomb is really no secret. The government claims an article the magazine wants to print will speed the spread of thermonuclear weapons throughout the world.  
The resulting case is building toward a landmark First Amendment decision in the federal courts.  
Attorneys for The Progressive magazine and the federal government today were scheduled to present arguments to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Round 2 of the now historic case. It began six months ago when a federal judge in Milwaukee banned publication of the article.  
If the appeals court decides for the government, the issue is likely to go to the Supreme Court, which last ruled on such an issue in 1971 when it authorized publication of the Pentagon Papers.

### Retailers optimistic about recession

HONG KONG — A group of leading American retailers said today the expected recession in the United States would not be as severe as forecasted and predicted business would recover quickly.  
"A recession is overdue in the United States, where there is 13 percent inflation," said Robert Sakowitz, president of the Houston-based Sakowitz clothing stores. "It will be a needed readjustment."  
The retailers were in Hong Kong on a fact-finding trip, primarily to see how the British colony's textile and electronics industries can further benefit their firms.

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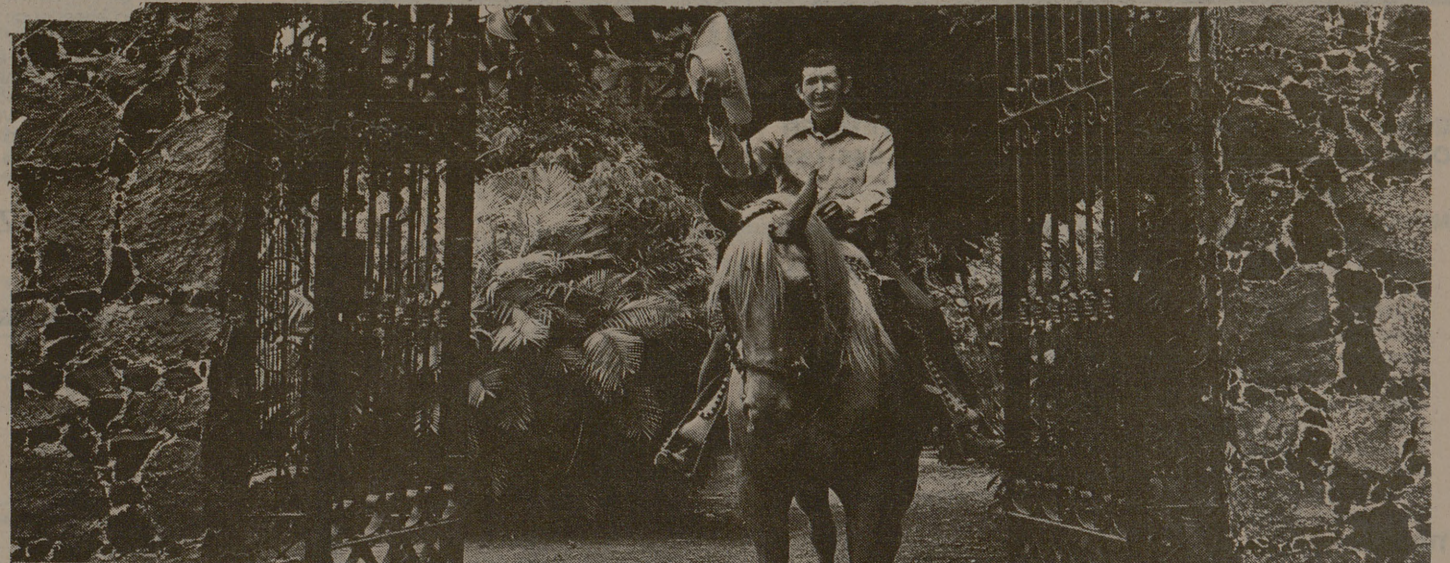
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