

Hinckley says he felt he'd be convicted

United Press International
WASHINGTON — John W. Hinckley Jr. says he "thought for sure" he would be convicted on criminal charges for shooting President Reagan and respects the jury for ignoring pressure and finding him innocent by reason of insanity.

In copyrighted story in Tuesday's Washington Post, the newspaper reported Hinckley also said in three telephone interviews from a Washington mental hospital, he feels sorry for White House Press Secretary James Brady, permanently injured in last year's attack, but has no sorrow for Reagan.

"I helped his presidency,"

said Hinckley, 27, who was found not criminally responsible last week of the shooting that shocked the nation. "After I shot him, his polls went up 20 percent."

The Post said it interviewed Hinckley by telephone Saturday and Sunday, the first conversations he held with reporters since being arrested March 30, 1981. The paper said Hinckley initiated the calls.

The Post said the "caller was able to answer specific questions about Hinckley's family, his personal life and his confinement at St. Elizabeths that were asked to verify his identity."

Hinckley, remanded to St.

Elizabeths Hospital until a court determines he is no longer a danger, was quoted as saying: "I thought for sure I would be convicted because of the pressure the jury was under to return a guilty verdict," and that he had prepared a four-page speech the day before in his cell at the federal courthouse.

Hinckley said as soon as he arrived at the facility last Tuesday, people began asking for his autograph.

"I like it here so far," he said. "Nobody bothers me ... They call me Mr. Hinckley."

Hinckley said during the conversations with the Post — made without the knowledge of his attorneys — he believed he was insane when he fired on Reagan and three others.

Warped



By Scott McCullough

Panel says resuming draft may be necessary by 1985

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A bipartisan panel reports a "significant probability" the United States will be forced to resume the military draft within a few years. But it shied away from recommending universal conscription.

In addition, the study released Monday said the All-Volunteer Force has created a legitimate concern because there are so many blacks in the Army that they would take a disproportionately high number of casualties in the opening days of a war.

The study faulted the AVF

for failing to draw proportionately from minorities and the white middle class.

"Particularly is this true in the Army, where minorities make up 41 percent of the enlisted force, including 33 percent black (as compared to a population of about 13 percent black)," it said. The report by the Atlantic Council, entitled "Toward A Consensus on Military Service," resulted from an 18-month study into the AVF by 63 leaders in the military, business and education communities.

The volunteer force was created when the Selective Service

draft system ended in 1973.

The study showed active duty strength is inadequate to meet threats to U.S. areas of interest in Europe, Asia and the Persian Gulf, although the Defense Department recently issued glowing reports on the higher number and quality of recruits.

But the report said active duty strength, now at 2 million, is the lowest it has been since 1950. Increases will have to be drawn from a diminishing manpower pool because an upturn in the economy coupled with a drop in unemployment could reduce enlistments, it said.

"There is thus a significant probability that the requirements of peace and security compel this country to resume the draft, perhaps by the 1980s," the study said.

Ret. Army Gen. Anthony Goodpaster, a former commander of Allied forces in Europe and a former superintendent at West Point who co-chaired the study, said there was a "substantial consensus reached by the group that the draft should not be restored at this time though the draft law should be reshaped to make it more efficient."

Court ruling will help S&Ls, reduce housing starts: Realtors

United Press International
WASHINGTON — With housing sales and starts at record lows, the Supreme Court ruling expanding the power of federal lenders to raise mortgage rates is likely to further depress the market, realtors and builders say.

Lending institutions, however, which have been squeezed with mortgage rates far below inflation rates, welcomed Monday's decision. They said it would give them financial relief

and eventually allow an easing of new mortgage rates.

The court held federal savings and loan associations can use "due-on-sale" clauses in sales contracts to hike a loan's interest rate when a mortgaged property is sold.

The ruling could affect as many as 17 states, which through state law or court rulings restrict the use of the "due-on-sale" clause that was challenged in a case from California.

That case asked the high court to decide whether federal savings and loans could enforce a clause which permits the lender to demand full repayment of the loan when the property is sold.

Industry experts said the 6-2 decision will make it tougher for

home owners to sell and would-be buyers to buy — resulting in a tightening of the screws on the already tight market.

This past April, 315,000 homes were sold, 33 percent below a year ago. For the first quarter of this year, new construction fell to an annual adjusted rate of 919,000 units — nearly a 50 percent plunge from four years ago.

Bill Ellingsworth of the National Association of Realtors said the "potential for its (the downward trend) continuing is damaging."

An official in one of the states affected, Oklahoma, said the ruling will "have a drastic effect on homebuilders ... and it will be particularly hard on people who

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Video games may help girls improve spatial, logic skills

United Press International
NEW YORK — Preliminary results of a study at a women's college indicate that teen-age girls who play video games regularly may benefit from the benefits of a special report on the subject in the June issue of Seventeen magazine.

The study was made by Dr. Mitchell, chairman of the education department of Mills College, Oakland, Calif.

It shows girls who play games such as Pac-Man show dramatic improvement on tests in spatial relationships, logical reasoning and dealing with abstract concepts and forms.

"Girls begin to develop spatial skills when they repeatedly estimate when to pull a trigger, how to guide a car through a highway maze, how to shoot an object," Mitchell says.

She adds that girls have a genetic lack of skill — they rarely have been encouraged to develop and practice this kind of coordination.

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