Selective Service clarifies appeal process

By Storm Kauffman

Last month, the Selective Service System issued its latest major group of regulation changes, thus hopefully ending more than two years of almost constant reform and confusion about draft policies and registrant rights. The regulations concern procedures for personal appearances and appeals, among other subjects. The issuance of the new rules removes the arbitrary administrative rights over personal appearances and appeals which had been in effect since late 1971.

Following is a summary of the changes, similar to that published in the Federal Register of March 10, 1972. Formally, a request for reclassification after the receipt of an induction order was not considered unless there had been a notification of the registrant's status resulting from circumstances over which he had no control. Now, someone receiving a postponement authorized by the national or state director, or one issued in order for him to complete a school term or academic year, will receive consideration of a reclassification request until 30 to 40 days prior to his actual induction date. Post-induction order reclassification requests from others will not be accepted.

Rules for reclassification of registrants are as follows:

- If notified of a change in the registrant's state of health, failure to appear, change in the registrant's status, or a change in the registrant's legal status, registrants are given five days in which to request a reclassification.
- Registrants given a local board decision, after pre-decision meeting, will receive a new classification notice and will have 15 days in which to request a state-level appeal and state board.
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A personal appearance before a quorum of the Presidential appeal board is now allowed upon written request of the registrant. The board's report of the state-level board was not unanimous. The registrant is permitted 15 minutes through this time may be extended at the discretion of the board, and witnesses are not permitted.

A registrant now has only 15 days, rather than the 30 days, from the date of his latest notice of classification, in which to request a local board appearance. If he wishes to bypass the personal appearance, he may request, during the same interval, an appeal to the state board.

If he requests the appearance before the local board, he will receive 15, not 30, days notice of the meeting. Following, he will receive a new classification notice and will have 15 days in which to request a state-level appeal and state board.

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