

TO: DRAFT REPEAL COUNCILS

MAY 7, 1971

FROM: NCRD STAFF

RE: DRAFT BILL INTRODUCED IN SENATE  
FILIBUSTER PLANNED BY ANTI-DRAFT SENATORS

The Selective Service Act of 1971 (HR 6531) was introduced on the Senate floor today. This is both the time we all have been anticipating and the time we must work the hardest if we hope to defeat the draft.

On May 4, Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) announced his intention to filibuster against any extension. With support from Senators Marlow Cook (R-Ky), William Proxmire (D-Wisc), Vance Hartke (D-Ind), Harold Hughes (D-Ia.) and Alan Cranston (D-Calif), Gravel foresees a vigorous and protracted debate. If there is sufficient pressure on Senators to support the filibuster, it could extend beyond June 30. Extended debate on the draft would both force Senators to come to grips with the issue and stimulate the media attention which has been notably absent. If the filibuster goes beyond June 30 the draft authority will lapse and inductions cease; for the first time Congress would have dealt a blow to the war. And if 34 Senators stand firm against cloture the draft would not be renewed.

Public pressure is the key to the success of this strategy. We urge you to exert concentrated effort now with phone calls, letters, telegrams, and visits to your Senator's offices here in Washington or in your state.

Urge your Senators to support the Hatfield amendment for non-extension and the Hughes amendment for first-term pay raises. Urge them to support the filibuster and to oppose cloture. And suggest to repeal supporters that they join in extended debate. (A suggested tactic for personal visits is to make an appointment for a group of entire families, informing yourself in advance with our pamphlets and addressing your Senator in unity on the draft issue.)

The anti-draft movement is gaining momentum; a few weeks of redoubled commitment now could mean the real difference between success and failure.

With gratitude,

The NCRD Staff: Stewart Kemp, Jo Lee Davis, Mac McGehee, Jim Bristol  
Leigh Larsen, Retha Webb, Tom McCue, Billy Peelle,  
and Martha Adams

P. S. As a result of a meeting of twenty-five Senators held Friday afternoon, we have learned that draft amendments will be considered first, starting on May 10. The McGovern-Hatfield Amendment to end the war will be offered to the Selective Service bill afterwards, probably at the end of May. Filibuster action will thus probably not start in earnest until mid-June, so the first - and urgent - priorities are the Hatfield and Hughes amendments.