

NATIONAL COUNCIL TO REPEAL THE DRAFT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"For the first time in history the Selective Service System has failed to meet its manpower quotas," said Stewart W. Kemp, Director of the National Council To Repeal the Draft, in Washington today. Although the Defense Department requested 17,000 men in March, 17,000 in April, and 15,000 in May, only 13,914, 10,066, and 12,215, respectively, were inducted in those three months.

"In an effort to meet the DoD quotas, Selective Service local boards issued 39,784 induction orders in March, 28,285 in April, and 32,318 in May - almost three times the number of men actually inducted," Kemp said. "This ratio, which has jumped dramatically, indicates a tremendous rise in resistance to the draft."

By way of comparison, national attention was aroused when a UPI wire story on May 3, 1970, reported that 53% of the men called in Oakland, California, in the six months ending March 31, 1970, did not appear as ordered. The Chief of Criminal Division of Southern California, U.S. Attorney Nissen, reported that the no-show rate in California from October, 1969, through May, 1970, was 39.4%. In December, 1968, the California rate had been 24%.

"Although Selective Service National Headquarters does not provide earlier data, reliable estimates indicate that on a national basis between 80 and 95% of the men who received induction orders in 1965-68 reported as ordered," Kemp said. "In any case, the 36% induction rate experienced nationally in the past three months represents a radical drop." In addition to no-shows, at least several hundred men a month (precise figures are not available) report as ordered but refuse to step forward to accept induction.

"Congress may find itself in the position of extending an unenforceable law," Kemp said. "Why asked why inductions were below quotas, the Selective Service official who supplied the figures answered, 'We just don't get them.'"