

A Saxbe-Schlesinger Amnesty Plan

Washington

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday he and Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger will give their amnesty recommendations to President Ford tomorrow.

After a Pentagon meeting with Schlesinger, Saxbe told reporters, "We will have a pretty definite plan" ready in the next two days to carry out what he called the spirit of Mr. Ford's offer to Vietnam draft resisters and deserters to work their way back.

The attorney general de-

clined to give any specifics or even any general idea of the content of the report he and Schlesinger will make.

Separate staffs of lawyers have been working on that problem at the Justice Department and the Pentagon since Mr. Ford took his new amnesty position before the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in Chicago last week.

The attorney general said there has been no final agreement on what he said will be a joint Defense-Justice plan and that the legal staffs are continuing to

work on the details.

Involved are 14,000 draft resisters subject to civilian law and about 28,000 deserters under military jurisdiction.

While Saxbe has given indications elsewhere of the trend of his thinking, Schlesinger has remained silent on the question. Aides said the defense secretary feels his views should go only to the President, who will make the final decisions.

Prior to the meeting with Schlesinger, the attorney general said the system will

require that draft resisters present themselves to a Selective Service official or to a court.

The official then would impose some condition for forgiving the charge.

"If he's an evader," Saxbe said, "it will be probably some probation and a direction to get a job in public service, in a hospital or some other service area. This is not firming up, but this is the worst it could be."

The minimum condition, he said, "would be just to be

a good citizen for two years."

Saxbe discussed the issue in an interview on the NBC-TV "Today" show.

The interview brought objections from the commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, John J. Stang. He told Saxbe this and other statements "indicate you have already ruled out any criminal penalties for draft dodgers who are in clear violation of applicable Selective Service legislation."

Stang's telegram to the at-

torney general said:

"As an attorney, I find no basis for these actions as the nation's chief law enforcement officer in deciding 'facts of being' in what the U.S. court must decide on a case-by-case basis in light of available evidence. Request legal basis of your public position on this subject as a matter of urgency."

After Mr. Ford made his amnesty statement at the VFW convention, the veteran's organization restated its opposition to amnesty, in a resolution.