

yesterday, the battles, which

Kennedy Questions If Lottery for Draft Was Truly Random

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP) —Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, says the random-selection draft system may not be so random after all.

The new draft plan was put in effect on Dec. 1 when 366 birth dates were drawn from a glass container at Selective Service headquarters.

Senator Kennedy said he had been told by mathematicians who analyzed the sequence of dates drawn in the lottery that young men born in the later months of the year had a higher chance of being drafted than those born in the earlier months.

Senator Kennedy said 26 December days and 21 November days were on the top half of the random selection list, but only 12 January days and 12 February days were drawn in the top half.

"This is a graphic illustration of the apparent lack of randomness," Senator Kennedy said.

The Senator asked Dr. Philip Handler, president of the National Academy of Sciences, to provide an independent analysis of the lottery results at hearings into reform of the Selective Service to be held early next year.

"There is some question whether this apparent lack of randomness results simply from an interplay of probabilities, or whether it results instead from the mechanical procedures used in establishing the sequence itself," Senator Kennedy said in a letter to Mr. Handler.

"It has been suggested, for example, that the capsules containing the dates of the early months were put into the bowl first and those of the later months last," he said, and that the capsules were not thoroughly mixed.

Senator Kennedy asked Mr. Handler to determine whether the draft lotteries held in World War I and World War II exhibited a higher or lower probability of randomness than the recent lottery.