

10 San Francisco Chronicle ★★ Thurs., Feb. 8, 1973

Draft Evader Returned Out of Homesickness

It was simple homesickness for America that finally drove Kenneth Rutledge from his four-year haven in Sweden and into the unforgiving arms of federal authorities, a Palo Alto press conference was told yesterday.

Rutledge, a slim, sandy-haired young man, appeared nervous during his meeting with the public and at first insisted that he returned for "personal reasons." Eventually, he opened up:

"The reason that I came back is because I would like to lead a normal life like most Americans do," the draft evader said. "I think I have a better chance here. This is my home. I feel at home."

INDUCTION

Rutledge, 26, an exchange graduate student from San Jose State University, became a fugitive from American justice in Stockholm when he refused to report for induction at the Oakland Army Base in 1971.



KENNETH RUTLEDGE
'A better chance here'

Rutledge, who is married to a Swedish girl and speaks fluent Swedish, continued his studies at the University of Lund and worked part-time in a Stockholm department store.

But, he said, he became increasingly disillusioned with conditions in Sweden

and a visit with friends from the U.S. six months ago planted the idea of going home.

"I felt I might as well come back and get it over with," said Rutledge — who faces a maximum five years in prison and-or a \$10,000 fine. "I'm hoping for the best and the best would be I don't go to jail."

AMNESTY

His attorney, Jerry Berg, however, said he expects no leniency from the prosecution in the light of President Nixon's strong statement against granting amnesty to draft evaders.

He said the U.S. Attorney is taking a "hard nosed approach" to the case on the direction of the Department of Justice.

Rutledge, who is free on his own recognizance, is scheduled to appear before U.S. District Judge Nordin Blacker in Palo Alto on February 20 to enter a plea.