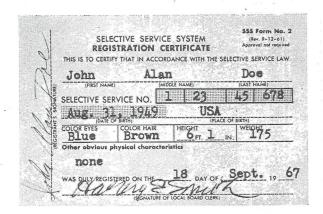
Periscope



BACK TO THE DRAFT?

The all-volunteer army is losing favor in Congress, and the Pentagon is betting that after the 1974 elections, the lawmakers will order a renewal of the draft. (Currently, men must register but there are no callups.) The House Appropriations Committee has concluded that the volunteer approach is not working well (enlistments are running an average of more than 15% below their monthly goals), and costs have rocketed through the ceiling.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

Madison Avenue admen are bracing nervously for new strictures from Washington, this time involving children. The agencies have learned that the Federal Trade Commission plans a crackdown that could eliminate children such as 7-year-old Mason Reese from TV ads, even in pitches designed for adults. They also fear a ban on sports figures and other heroes that could be considered as appealing unfairly to moppets. And the FTC may extend the industry's own advertising restrictions on Saturday-morning kiddie shows to other time slots.

THE ODD COUPLE

Kate Smith, the country's most durable "square" songstress, will soon bring out a record that marks something of a stylistic departure. Not that the disk qualifies as a swinging single; one side is described as a "wistful ballad," the other as a sing-along. But Kate's background will be supplied by Dr. John, the netherworldly rock musician





who bills himself as "The Night Tripper." Dr. John says that he is a Smith fan of long standing, although as a side-kick he is a far wolf-cry from Kate's old partner, the late Ted Collins.

OIL TO BURN

The temperature at certain Washington embassies reflects the fortunes of the fuel crisis. The ambassador of oil-rich Kuwait has set his thermostat at a cozy 70. The Israelis have turned their dial to a Spartan 65.

THE MOODS OF CHAIRMAN MAO

The bulletins on the health and vigor of China's Chairman Mao Tse-tung seem to vary from visitor to visitor. While talking recently with Australia's Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, for instance, Mao's mind seemed to wander. When asked why he had named 36-year-old la-



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bor leader Wang Hung-wen to Peking's Politburo, the 79-year-old Chairman reportedly stared into space and finally answered: "I don't know." During a later two-and-three-quarter-hour talk with Henry Kissinger, however, Mao impressed both the Secretary of State and U.S. envoy David Bruce with his lucid command of the whole long conversation.

RUMBLINGS FROM THE RIGHT

From Gerald Ford's backyard comes new evidence of the conservative voter's growing disenchantment with President Nixon. A Democrat who is thinking of running for the Vice President-designate's seat in that Republican Michigan district sent pollsters to take its political pulse. Not surprisingly, Ford's constituents gave him an 85% "positive" rating, but Mr. Nixon got only 23%—4 points lower than his score in the latest national Gallup poll.

NOW IT'S URANIUM PRICES

The soaring prices Arab producers have set for their oil are sparking similar action by countries rich in another prime energy source—uranium to fuel nuclear plants. Gabon's President Omar Bongo has made it plain that his uranium prices will go up, and he plans to demand a major share in foreign companies now exploiting Gabon's ore.