

Amnesty Opposed By Draft Chief

Washington

Selective Service Director Curtis Tarr said yesterday that general amnesty for all draft evaders who have refused to serve in the Vietnam war would jeopardize the country's military induction program.

"... It would be difficult to justify the continuation of inductions," Tarr told the Administrative Practice and Procedure subcommittee headed by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, (Dem-Mass.).

"Our youth could not understand such opposing policies," he said. "I am certain that it would be nearly impossible to maintain membership on local boards."

Leading off three days of hearings on the amnesty question, Tarr further warned that alternative proposals to blanket amnesty, social service programs, may not inhibit "continuation of inductions, but I have grave doubts about the equity of doing so."

"Furthermore, the Nation would accept a precedent for permitting the evasion of selective service that might some day be an unwelcome tradition," he said. "This policy also could affect the attitudes and the discipline among young men in the armed services."

During more than two hours of testimony and questioning, Tarr detailed how he has been implementing the reforms written by Congress in the 1971 draft extension law.

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In his opening statement, Kennedy criticized the selective service's implementation of guidelines for local boards. He charged they had produced a "confusing maze of contradictory instructions."

Kennedy said delay in issuing new regulations on conscientious objector appeals had left local boards "closeted with the musty practices of the past and denied exposure to the present state of law."

While estimates of those who have left the country rather than face the draft have ranged up to 70,000 and the number of those jailed has been said to be about 500, Tarr said 6000 draft registrants face possible prosecution. He said that if they were not penalized, it would be difficult to justify the continuation of the draft at all.

He said he could go no further than President Nixon, who said recently that no amnesty will be considered until the war is over and all American prisoners are returned.

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