

Amnesty plan booms as offer's end nears

by Warren Nelson
United Press International

WASHINGTON—A flood of applications for President Ford's amnesty program has hit the armed forces and clemency board with only three weeks left before the offer expires.

But officials say the offer made to heal the wounds left by the Vietnam war is being taken up by few who deserted as a result of antiwar feelings. Most of the returnees give the same reasons for deserting that have been heard since the Roman legions—problems with girlfriends, family strains, financial debts, emotional stress in the military environment.

There are three separate parts to Ford's amnesty program: the Defense Department's program for deserters; the Justice Department's program for draft evaders; and the Presidential Clemency Board which can clear the records of men already convicted of desertion or draft evasion.

None of the programs were overwhelmed by applicants when Ford made the offer Sept. 16, but officials predicted there would be a surge in the closing weeks as the fearful became convinced there were no tricks or catches and that time would run out Jan. 31.

The prediction has come true. Last week an average of 64 deserters volunteered for the program each day, exceeding even the 60 a day average set in the first week of the program. The flow had slipped to a trickle of only 14 a day during the Thanksgiving-

Christmas holiday periods.

A spokesman for the clemency board said this weekend, "We're going crazy here. This place is a madhouse."

She said the board had received only 900 applications between September and last Monday, then got hit with 245 on Tuesday and Wednesday alone. Officials have not yet tabulated the applications for the rest of the week.

But even with the upsurge, the overall return remains small. Of 6,200 draft evaders eligible, only 175 or 2.8 per cent have signed up for amnesty.

Democrats release own program to end nation's economic crisis

by Edward K. DeLong
United Press International

WASHINGTON—Stealing the march on President Ford's State of the Union proposals, congressional Democrats will present their own program Monday to end the nation's economic crisis through a tax cut and eight other major reforms within the next 90 days.

The program includes proposals for a tough wage and price control program, possible gasoline rationing, increased credit,

additional public service jobs and an emergency housing program.

If the more traditional measures do not show significant progress in reducing interest rates by mid-summer, the plan says. Congress should consider enacting a progressive tax on the income derived from interest rates of 9 per cent and above.

The seven-page document was prepared by a task force of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. Rep. Jim Wright, D-Tex., was chairman of the group, named by Speaker Carl Albert.

Challenging Congress to take the initiative immediately rather than wait for presidential proposals, the program criticizes economic policies of the Nixon administration as cruel and indirectly calls those of the Ford administration half-way and timid.

The Democratic presentation will come two days before Ford's State of the Union address, in which the President plans to unveil his own new programs for coping with the twin ills of inflation and recession.

First among these was tax reform and relief.

"This can be achieved," the plan said, "by increasing the personal income tax exemption, the standard deduction and minimum income allowance, by reducing the weight of payroll tax liabilities upon the working poor and/or by a system of individual tax credits."

Federal income lost in such reforms "should be recouped to the extent reasonably possible by closing the loopholes that now enable large corporations and wealthy individuals to pay little or no taxes at all," it said.

The Democratic leadership called the existing 7.1 per cent level of unemployment

intolerable and said the stagnating state of the economy was underlined by the fact that the last Congress appropriated three times as much for unemployment compensation as it did for public service employment.

"Public service jobs... should be provided in an adequate dimension to fill the slack productivity while other policies are generating a revival of the private sector," the plan said.

The plan said an alarmingly increasing gap between U.S. energy consumption and domestic production threatens both the economy and national security. Because voluntary conservation measures have not worked, it said, more stringent short-term measures are imperative.

If a gas tax is adopted, it said, the revenue should go into a trust fund to finance an accelerated program of searching for alternative energy sources.

It said, "we need a tough but selective program to halt the current wage-price spiral." It proposed an independent agency with power to issue subpoenas, to order price increases delayed up to 90 days and to impose more permanent controls in extreme cases.

N.C. to regain 10 per cent of lost natural gas allotment

United Press International

RALEIGH—Officials of North Carolina's only natural gas pipeline supplier Sunday notified Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. they would restore 10 per cent of the gas lopped from the state's allocation in the firm's most recent cutback.

Holshouser's press secretary, Jack Childs, said Holshouser was notified by telephone by officials of Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Co. (Transco) of the action and said Holshouser was naturally pleased but it is a long way from solving the problem.

A Dec. 27 curtailment by Transco brought North Carolina's natural gas supply to an average of 45.4 per cent short of demand, and in some places the shortage hit 55 per cent. Sunday's action restored 10 per cent of the 6.75 billion cubic feet curtailed in December.

Childs said North Carolina would continue its actions before the Federal Power Commission (FPC) which include a petition for emergency gas supplies and a Jan. 27 hearing to determine why North Carolina has been so hard hit by gas shortages.

And, said Childs, the state would take its case to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington this week, seeking to have the FPC forced to divert gas to North Carolina from other states.

North Carolina officials have been told, said Childs, that their petition for emergency gas supplies was not specific enough as to the nature of North Carolina's emergency.

The State Utilities Commission, because of the Transco cutback, has ordered the state's three gas distributors not to take on any new customers until the end of the winter heating season April 15.

They said the shortage hit hardest in North Carolina because the state has a

proportionately higher number of industries which rely on natural gas.

A 15 per cent curtailment in the 1973-74 winter season worried state officials but voluntary conservation kept the state out of serious difficulty then.

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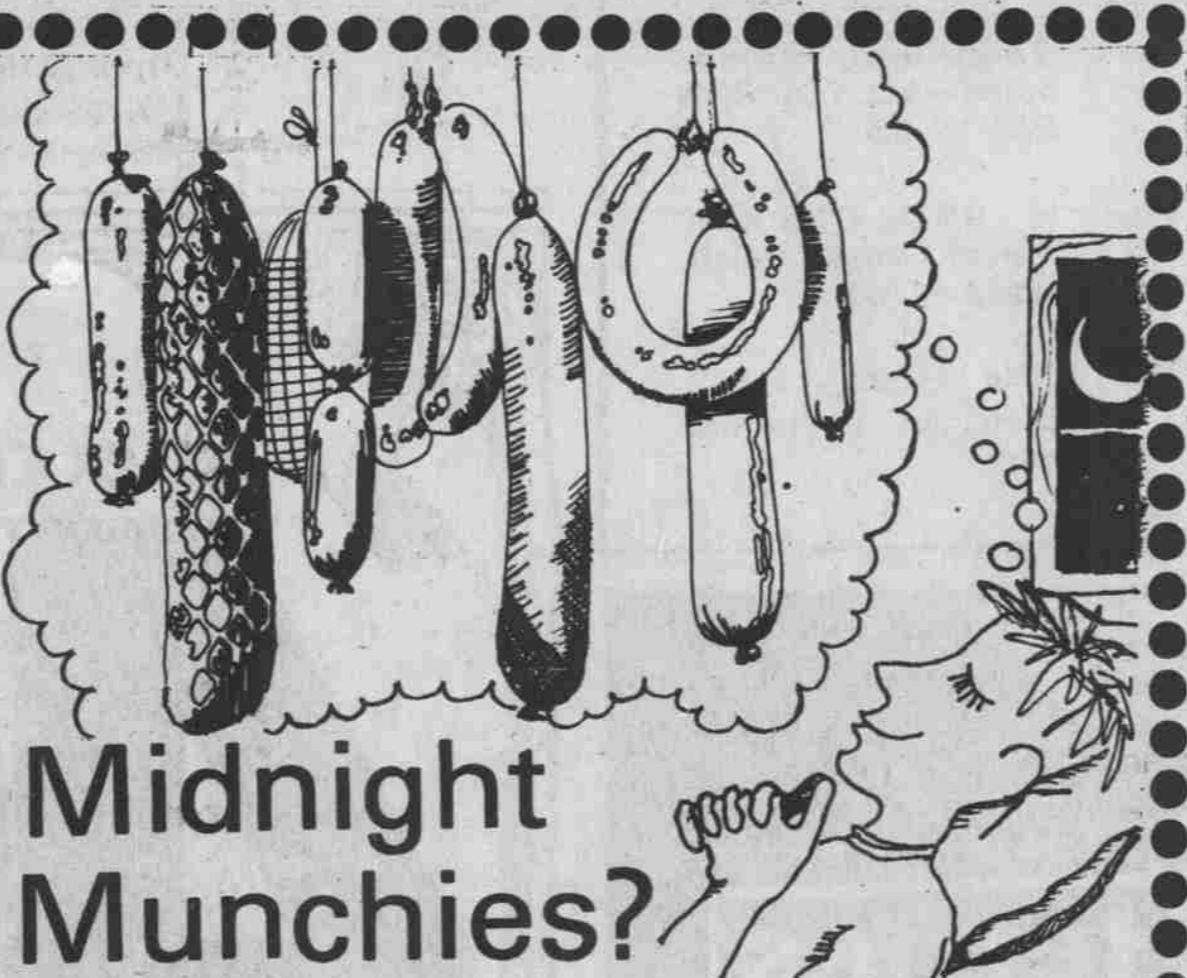
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To make listing easier tax listing forms will be mailed to every taxpayer who listed taxes in Orange County last year. The forms may be completed by the taxpayer and mailed to the Tax Supervisors Office, Room 23, County Court House, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278.

The Tax Taker for various Townships of Orange County will hold appointments as follows for the purpose of taking tax lists for the Year 1974.

CHAPEL HILL TOWNSHIP L. R. Cheek, Lister

Carrboro Town Hall 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each Monday through Friday, beginning January 2, 1975. Each Thursday, Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and each Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon at the Municipal Building at the Chapel Hill Town Hall and Carrboro Town Hall throughout the month of January. NO NIGHT LISTINGS AT CARRBORO TOWN HALL.

ENO TOWNSHIP Mrs. Lillian Griffin, Lister

Beginning January 2, 1975, Monday through Friday at Griffin's Exxon 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. and nights 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Saturdays at Griffin's Exxon 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

BINGHAM TOWNSHIP Mrs. Evelyn Teer, Lister

January 7	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Home
January 10	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	White Cross
January 11	9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	White Cross
January 14	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Home
January 17	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	A.C. Wade
January 18	9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	Harden Johnson's Store
January 21	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Home
January 24	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Orange Grove Store
January 25	9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	Orange Grove Store
January 28	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Home
January 30	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Louis Allen's Store
January 31	9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.	Louis Allen's Store

LATE LIST PENALTY

10% of total tax due will be added to all lists filed after February 1. All persons owning ten or more acres of land must file a Farm Census report.

Persons 64 years of age or over who wish to apply for the \$5,000 Homestead Exemption must complete application form found on tax abstract. This application must be re-executed each year to qualify.

Orange County Tax Supervisor
S. M. GATTIS

