

Labor Draft Might Induct 4-Fs First

The Nation's 3,500,000 4-F's—men physically unfit for military service—may be the first to feel the weight of a Government labor draft if Congress enacts national service legislation.

Hearings on the compulsory manpower control issue will get underway before the Senate Military Committee tomorrow with an expected indorsement of the Austin-Wadsworth bill by Secretary of War Stimson and subsequent testimony by Lieut. Col. Francis V. Keesling, jr., of Selective Service.

Indications are that Selective Service will propose specific classifications under which single men rejected for Army service would be subject to first call in the transfer of individuals from one job to another.

As the bill now is drafted, it would be administered by Selective Service under a director of national service. Men from 18 through 64 years old and women from 18 through 49, except mothers of children under 18, expectant mothers, those in the armed services and State officials, would be subject to its terms.

The bill makes no mention of the order in which the labor draft would be applied, but Selective Service officials are prepared to suggest that definite classifications be written into the legislation. These probably would make single 4-F's under 30 liable first, dip next into the same class in the age limits up to 40 and call on family men and women last.

Washington Post, 1-17-44