

MANPOWER

Control of Reservists

► A SENATE Armed Services subcommittee is trying to decide whether reservists should be under the control of civilians or of the Defense Department. The decision is expected shortly.

Scientific and engineering societies, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Congress of Industrial Organizations want civilian control of the recall of reservists to active duty. The Defense Department and other governmental agencies, including the Labor Department, think Defense can handle the job.

Under present law every man drafted since June, 1951, goes into the reserves for six years after completion of his two years active service. The new Armed Forces Reserve Bill, which has been passed by the House, would put reservists into three categories: Ready, Standby and Retired.

Those who want civilian control of the recall of reservists to active duty say that

a sudden and indiscriminate recall in a time of war or national emergency might well disrupt the ability of industry to produce the necessary modern weapons and materiel. A civilian agency, they claim, would balance the requirements of industry and of scientific research projects against the requirements of the military.

Dr. Edgar C. Britton, president of the American Chemical Society, told the subcommittee that even in wartime an adequate supply of research and development personnel must remain available in the nation's universities and industries, and the training of future scientists and engineers must be continued.

On the other hand Defense Department officials pointed out that a civilian board already exists within the department to police the recalling of reserves. Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin suggested that a combined civilian and military board within

the Defense Department be given control of reserve recalls.

While most opponents of the Defense Department's position did not designate any specific agency to handle recalls, the Engineering Manpower Commission of the Engineers Joint Council suggested that Selective Service be given the job.

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OPTICS

Three-Dimension Movies Applied to 16 mm. Film

► AMATEUR MOVIE makers can convert their cameras into semi-professional third-dimension cameras with an optical device that truly "does it with mirrors."

Called the "beam-splitter," the optical device clamps just ahead of the camera lens. Light entering the device from the object being photographed strikes a "left-eye mirror" and a "right-eye mirror." The mirrors reflect the light rays to a prism which reflects them into the camera lens.

Each 16 mm. frame carries two pictures, one for each eye to see on a screen through polaroid glasses. When viewed through the glasses, the pictures merge into a single third-dimension picture.

Floyd A. Ramsdell, general manager of the Worcester Film Corporation, Worcester, Mass., said his company has made several of the devices on special orders. But commercial production is not planned, he said, because the device is "for the rich amateur."

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ZOOLOGY

Gophers Not So Smart

► GOPHERS ARE not as smart as backyard gardeners sometimes think they are.

Since May, 1949, some 252 individual gophers have been trapped a total of 1,425 times on a four-acre test plot by Walter E. Howard, zoologist at the University of California's College of Agriculture.

Purpose of his research is to obtain better information about the gopher's life history so that better ways of controlling the pest may be devised.

To catch his gophers, Mr. Howard devised a special, box-like trap. This is placed in an active gopher runway located by probing near fresh gopher mounds. An overhead trigger mechanism indicates when a catch has been made. Since most gophers shun metal-floored traps, Mr. Howard has covered his with cloth.

Before being released, the trapped gopher is classified according to weight, sex, location, etc. He is also marked so that he may be identified when re-trapped.

"Building a better gopher trap," the trap-builder remarked, "may not result in the world beating a path to the inventor's door, but it does make the study of gophers easier."

Gophers are diligent little creatures that can dig tunnels 300 times their own length overnight. Unlike the mole, which compresses earth by brute force as it worms through the ground, the gopher uses his front feet to loosen the soil. He shoves it under his small body then pushes it out of the tunnel with his chest.

The gopher is a vegetarian. He spends almost all of his life underground in search

of roots, bulbs and tubers. Some gophers are called "pocket gophers" because of an external fur-lined cheek pouch where they store their food.

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BETTER GOPHER TRAP—Live pocket gopher traps as shown here have snared 252 individual gophers a total of 1,425 times as part of a study of the life history of these animals at the University of California College of Agriculture, Davis. The aim is to develop better methods of control of the costly gophers.