

Mr. HÉBERT. Well, have you given any consideration—this crops into my mind at the moment. Have you given any consideration to an extension of enlistments, initial enlistments?

Your present enlistment is what? Three years, isn't it?

Colonel RECTOR. Four.

Mr. HÉBERT. Four years?

Colonel RECTOR. Four.

Mr. HÉBERT. Has any attention been given to a longer enlistment? Because, after all, you have to train these people, and you know they go in there to get trained to go out and get more.

Colonel RECTOR. That is true. And it has been considered, sir.

I would like to refer this to Colonel McRae.

Colonel McRAE. There is a current exercise that would involve the extension, sir, of the enlistments in a number of the more critical skills. But this is only a temporary measure.

There is no intention at the moment to extend it beyond 4 years for all groups.

Mr. HÉBERT. You see, Colonel, the other day the Congress, in passing a bill relating to the academies, to fill out the vacancies, made it mandatory that anybody going to our academies have to serve 5 years. An effort was made on the floor to put it at 7 years, which found favor in many places.

Now I think the same logic should apply: that it costs us X number of dollars to educate an officer, and that he must remain in the service for 5 years.

The same should apply to the enlisted man, who is certainly receiving equal or comparable or relative training in his field, and which is costing the Government money to train him. And if he knows very well that he goes in to be trained. And which is right. And to capitalize on that training, economically, financially, after he leaves the service.

So I think it is something that the services should address themselves to, in this technical field.

The recruiting service always boasts—that is one of the come-ons they have. "We will train you. We will train you. Come in, we will train you; we will train you."

Well, that man goes in, and rightly so, and serves the country and is in uniform. He is trained.

But I think some exploration should be given to an extension of tours in the technical services, where the Government is investing money to train technicians, as compared to training a man to carry a rifle.

Colonel HILL. Mr. Chairman, we are approaching this thing that you are speaking of in a slightly different manner.

We are now in the process of offering people additional technical training only if they do reenlist.

After they complete their first enlistment, they are not eligible for this training unless they reenlist.

Mr. HÉBERT. Do I understand you to mean by that that you do not recruit from the lowest level the civilian into the uniform, on the basis of training?

Colonel HILL. Yes, sir, we do, do just as you said.