

Mr. OI. It has only been in times of war that the Department of Defense has requisitioned material resources. However, when it comes to acquiring the necessary manpower resources, the Department of Defense has assumed an altogether different posture.

Conscription and coercion, which are the counterparts of requisition, have been the principal means of acquiring the necessary flows of labor.

I propose to argue that a draft and its compulsion are unnecessary in the light of the growing population pool, if we return to a strength of between 2.7 to 3 million men and if we raise pay substantially.

The four principal issues to which I have addressed myself in this paper are: No. 1, Who bears the burden of involuntary military service?

No. 2, What is the real cost of military service to those who are coerced to serve?

No. 3, What is the budgetary cost of meeting military manpower needs on a voluntary basis?

No. 4, and lastly, In the light of the current Vietnam situation, what steps can we take to formulate a rational military manpower procurement policy?

First and foremost, the draft imposes a burden on American youths in four ways: Most obviously, some men are drafted.

Second, many youths reluctantly volunteer for enlisted ranks, officer commissions, and Reserve positions, in order to avoid being drafted. DOD surveys indicate that 38 percent of voluntary enlistments, 41 percent of officers, and 71 percent of enlistments to Reserve units can properly be regarded as reluctant participants who would not have volunteered in the absence of a draft.

The incidence of active military service has largely rested with the lower middle classes, men who do not have the wherewithal or the capabilities of continuing on to college, and, in this sense it has been a regressive incidence.

The two other burdens implicit in the draft, which I will mention and leave, are first, the uncertainty caused those youths who, rather than volunteer, would choose to wait and take their chances with the draft; and lastly, that because of the inordinately low pay levels associated with compulsory service, the true volunteers who want a military career are denied the higher pay they could have received under a voluntary system.

What is the real cost of service to those who are coerced or compelled to serve? Many of these costs cannot be put into dollars-and-cents terms. However, there is one undeniable fact.

The youth who is presently drafted earns a basic pay of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$96 a month, including the value of his keep, his monthly income is in the neighborhood of \$160, far below the minimum wage. If we went to a voluntary force, my estimate suggests that a pay of \$325 a month would attract sufficient flows of volunteers.

The difference between that figure and \$160 a month—or something over \$1,900 a year—is a hidden tax borne by those men who are in our active duty forces, a tax burden some three times greater than the Federal income tax burden per average adult over 18 years of age, which is less than \$650 per year. So we are taxing those who