

of having a much smaller proportion of people who have had military service of one kind or another in the general population?

Wouldn't you agree that this does have an impact on one's views on military policy, foreign policy generally, the attitude towards the country, and so forth, good or bad; but it does have a significant impact. You can see it for one thing in our veterans' organizations, the American Legion view, the VFW view, and so forth. I was asking you, Professor Oi, if you would like to comment on that, because you take the position in favor of a professional force, and of getting away from—

Mr. Or. There are two contexts in which we ought to discuss this. One is that if we continue the draft, we are necessarily going to be pushing more men through for shorter tours of duty. We are going to have more veterans; that fact is undeniable.

But in spite of this, we are still going to have a majority of the youths reaching the age of 17 and 18 today not serving in the military in the years ahead, providing that the Vietnam situation stabilizes or deescalates.

Now, if Vietnam continues its upward trend of increasing the active duty strength by 300,000 to 400,000 a year, then we are going to get back toward the Korean war situation. Now, whether this is a good or a bad thing, I have difficulty evaluating.

My own feeling is that I would prefer a system wherein people who have been in service do not view it as some period in which they have given years of their lives to their country, but rather should view it more as a defeated Congressman would—that these were enjoyable years that he chose to invest in the service of his country.

Chairman PROXMIRE. You have raised quite a haunting specter. It will take me a while to adjust to that one. While I am adjusting—and I must adjust because I have more questions—I will yield to you, Senator Percy, and then Congressman Rumsfeld.

Senator PERCY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Gentlemen, I have been on a number of college campuses in recent weeks, and talked with college students about the desirability of developing more flexibility and voluntary aspects into the draft. And, of course—meet with universal acceptance on that concept.

I have asked them specifically, whether, if a lottery was held at age 19, how they would react to a choice being given them as to what age they would like to serve, and if they had that choice, when would they like to serve.

I found universal acceptance of the idea of the choice, and a good scattering of those who would want to serve early and get it over with, and then come back; those who would like to get their education first, or part of it, and then come back; those who would want to finish their education and then go.

Could you each comment on this particular aspect of the proposal that I think was in the Commission's report? It was not embodied, I do not believe, in the President's report itself.

Mr. Wool. On the question of choice of service, let me summarize, if I may, the feeling of the majority of the Marshall Commission on this issue.