

waukee, of course, as in many big cities, there is a heavy concentration of Negroes, that whereas those who were physically fit and mentally qualified had a very high rate of induction, that there wasn't a high rate of enlistments.

The Negroes were taken into the armed services in Milwaukee, if this is typical at all, because they were drafted. The prospects of their being drafted not only because of their lack of undergraduate deferments, but also because of the inaccessibility for them to have Reserve or National Guard status—discrimination was very conspicuous.

Mr. Wool. I think the Marshall Commission study, again based upon the data which we provided it, highlighted some of these problems. Now in effect if you look at the Negro population as a whole, the facts are that the percentage of men who served was lower than the percentage of whites because their rejection rates for educational reasons were so much higher.

If you look at those who are qualified for service, you find that the percentage who were drafted among those qualified was significantly higher than among white men, and I think you have hit at the reasons.

First of all, our enlistment and our officer programs have tended to be more selective in various ways. Many of the enlistment programs in the past had higher standards than the basic draft standard. There was a significant group, particularly of Negro youths and others who fell in between. They didn't qualify certainly for the more selective enlistment programs, where they had a choice of skill and training, and they therefore fell in the limbo of having only the draft as a viable alternative.

Second, the percentage of Negroes who qualify for officer programs, because so few graduate from college, was much smaller than for white men. And finally, the percentage who enter the Reserves, which were also in a position to be selective, was much lower than for whites.

Now in the latter area particularly, a number of measures have been initiated as described by the President in his recent message to correct that situation.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Has the President recommended measures to do as Secretary Wirtz has suggested to take mental and physical rejectees by the scruff of their necks, to have that correction made, that needed medical correction, or those who just barely miss the mental qualifications because they haven't had enough schooling, and give them training of a few months?

Mr. Wool. What we have done is to significantly lower the mental qualification standards.

Chairman PROXMIRE. I understand that.

Mr. Wool. These men, about half of them whose standards have been lowered have in fact volunteered for service. The other half who have entered have been drafted. The half who have been drafted in this range have in fact, been taken by the scruff of their neck.

Now they have been taken in because there was a realistic potential for using these men, under our existing training system, which does look at the individual and his progress rather than treating him in a completely assembly line fashion, which has from our experience permitted him to qualify as a fully proficient soldier.