

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Wolff.

Mr. WOLFF. Mr. Chairman, I have long been an admirer of the admiral. He may not remember but he appeared on one of my television programs before I came into Congress, and he impressed me at that time as not only a great expert in the nuclear field and defense field, but also in education. And it is in this area that I should like to ask a question, relative to its connection with our Defense Establishment. Particularly, in the area of our scientific and technical reserve with reference to the present directives that have been issued by Selective Service relative to graduate school deferment.

I wonder if you would care to comment on that, Admiral?

COMMENT ON SELECTIVE SERVICE

Admiral RICKOVER. Mr. Wolff, this is not within my area of competence. So far, I have been talking about things I know something about. When I start talking about other matters I can talk with only the same degree of knowledge possessed by any other interested citizen.

Mr. WOLFF. I thought you might want to comment on the issue.

Admiral RICKOVER. I believe I know what the issue is, sir. I think that what chiefly bothers the graduate schools is: they have large numbers of students and they can only get along by using their graduate students as instructors. If these graduate students are drafted there will not be enough instructors to take care of the students. That is the real issue as I understand it.

My personal feeling, and I am now talking as a citizen and not as an official of the Defense Department, is that every young man, brilliant or stupid, rich or poor, should be required to serve. I believe it is wrong to defer anyone. When one young man is required to risk his life, all other young men should likewise be so required. It is easy to rationalize that one young man will be of greater future benefit than another young man. But a man's life is the most valuable thing he has. I just don't see how you can compare one man's actual life with another man's potential contribution. After all, our country and our form of government, despite all their faults, are still the most marvelous in all history. They have afforded more freedom, more benefits, more human dignity, than any other country or government ever has.

Therefore, isn't it both a duty and a privilege to serve so fine a land? Isn't the main benefit of all serving together in a common endeavor worth more than the material benefit which might accrue by exempting some?

Isn't patriotism and love of country essential to a man's spirit? I believe the added unity our Nation would gain from universal service would far outweigh any possible benefit gained by exempting some.

I believe a practical way to solve the problem would be to draft all young men at about 18. After their service they would be free to go, without interruption, to college and then to graduate school. There is no doubt in my mind that the maturity they would acquire during service, their fraternal association with their fellow young men would give them a deeper insight into the human problems facing us. And they would become better citizens.

NON-COMPETITIVE CONTRACTS UNDER \$500—MOST FAVORED CUSTOMER CLAUSE

Mr. WOLFF. Getting to another area you spoke about before, procurement. There is a great amount of noncompetitive procurement that