

If the system as suggested is applied, I am not sure how it would really work if the occupational groups are given a different classification from that given the baccalaureate.

Mr. QUIE. They have as good a chance as some of the 19-year-olds.

Dr. SHANNON. The 2-A and 2-S students are both subject to the draft till 35.

Mrs. VETTER. To the age 35 liability, but not to the penalty.

Dr. SHANNON. They are subject until age 35.

Mrs. VETTER. This is the reason they are placed in 2-A. The law does not provide for vocational students. I think it was meant to. I am sure the people who wrote it intended that it should. It is the law itself which specifically states that men shall be deferred in 2-S until reaching age 24, dropping out or receiving a baccalaureate. Men who are not in the baccalaureate program, therefore, are just omitted—I think by error when they wrote the law. They had no protection at all, and General Hershey sent out a directive to the local boards saying: "Defer these men in 2-A. They can't be deferred in 2-S as the law stands."

At least this is his interpretation, and I understand this. I do not see any difference in it. He did not want them drafted. I do not look upon a 2-A deferment as anything less than a 2-S, because that is the classification of all our scientists and engineers who are deferred when they get through.

The important part of it is that in one way what General Hershey was trying to do was to say that the student who is to be deferred for 4 years to get a baccalaureate must accept the penalties of the student deferment, and there are two, and they are severe. The student who is going to be in school for only 2 years obtaining a technical level degree, a 2-year degree, should not have to suffer the same penalties as the boy who is deferred for 4 years. Therefore, let us defer them in 2-A, and there they will be safe.

It is true the National Security Council can at any time change the list of critical occupations, the list of essential activities. It also, of course, has authority to change the list of deferments for graduate study. It has not done any of these things. I think it as likely that they will change the occupational deferments as the educational deferments, which is almost nil at this point.

Mrs. GREEN. You think it is almost nil?

Mrs. VETTER. Yes, I do. I think they will not take any action unless some pressure is applied to see that they do.

Mr. QUIE. I just wanted to finish on this. If a person is in 1-A until he is 19 years of age, of course it would be a problem for him if his birthday was in January. Other than that, he would not have any troubles at all. If you stay in 1-A and get past that age, therefore you would not be subject to call.

Mrs. VETTER. It is only if the prime age group is invoked. They are not in 1-A. They are in 2-A, which is deferable. They are in an occupational deferment rather than a student deferment.

Mr. QUIE. His problem is taken care of then.

Mrs. VETTER. His problem is taken care of, yes, because he will be drafted. If he stays in 1-A, he will be drafted, provided he is available.

Mr. QUIE. They are talking about seven categories.