

mittee that he headed set up a system that was flexible and enabled us to handle all sorts of deferments and probably a great many of us saw, with some regret, more modern methods being used to be flexible.

The present policy on the deferment of graduate students has been developed over a period of time, going back to mid-1966, or earlier.

The National Advisory Commission on Selective Service was appointed at about that time, under the chairmanship of Mr. Burke Marshall. The Commission's report, made in February of 1967, recommended the termination of graduate school deferments except for students of medicine and dentistry.

In November of 1966, the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives announced the appointment of a Civilian Advisory Panel on Military Manpower Procurement under the chairmanship of Gen. Mark W. Clark, with the mission of making recommendations to the committee with respect to selective service legislation and operations and military manpower procurement policies generally.

General Clark's panel made its report also in February of 1967, and endorsed sharply restricted graduate school deferment.

Both Houses of the Congress gave extensive consideration to the reports of the National Advisory Commission and the Civilian Advisory Panel. The Armed Services Committees of both the House and Senate, in extensive hearings, thoroughly considered the question of graduate student deferments, one of the many matters with which the Congress, the administration, and the country at large, was deeply concerned. The Congress endorsed proposed curtailment of graduate school deferments.

However, the Congress recognized that it might later be found that the national interest required graduate school deferments in fields other than the health professions.

With this possibility in mind, the Congress assigned to the National Security Council the function of continuously reviewing this area and of making recommendations from time to time to the Director of Selective Service concerning graduate study, occupations, and other training areas where deferment programs might be necessary in the national interest.

Following enactment of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967, selective service regulations were amended to reflect the statutory amendments and to implement new policies, including those of graduate school deferments.

These regulations provided for the deferment of students of medicine, dentistry, optometry, osteopathy, and veterinary medicine, and left room for the addition of other fields of study to be identified upon the advice of the National Security Council.

The new regulations also provided for a transitional graduate school deferment program which in effect gave those students entering their first year of graduate study in the fall of 1967, a deferment of 1 year and provided also that students entering their second or subsequent years in the fall of 1967, might be deferred by their local boards to attain the professional or academic degree they were pursuing.

These regulations remain in effect and express selective service policy on graduate school deferments at the present time.