

The question of changing to a different system of age groups remains under continuing study within the Administration. Similarly, the question of whether to propose to the Congress legislation to authorize a method of selection to replace the present sequence of dates of birth system also remains under continuing study.

Madam Chairman, this concludes my statement. I will be pleased to answer any questions so far as I am able to do so.

Mrs. GREEN. Thank you very much, General Hershey.

Now if we may turn to Dr. Harrington, the president of the University of Wisconsin, which has a large graduate school. May we hear your views, Dr. Harrington?

STATEMENT OF DR. FRED HARRINGTON, PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Mr. HARRINGTON. Thank you. I am Fred Harrington, the president of the University of Wisconsin. I am on the executive committees of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and also the American Council of Education.

I am speaking for myself as the president of a university with 55,000 students but since Kingman Brewster, of Yale, could not get here I will make my remarks broad enough so that they will cover much of what he would say.

I am pleased that this committee is giving attention to this subject.

As you have said, Madam Chairman, the Higher Education Act of 1968 must take into consideration the selective service situation in order adequately to handle the facilities and fellowship question.

I am pleased for the opportunity to say what a university president would like to say now.

I should begin by saying our position is frequently misunderstood. We are widely quoted as being interested primarily in taking care of ourselves, taking care of our own institutions, taking care of our students, and establishing a privileged class of people who will not be drafted. This, of course, is not the case.

We are interested in the national interest. We want to protect that national interest and it should be said time and again that we are not seeking wholesale deferments. Indeed, most of us in the academic community are quite prepared to have Congress reconsider the undergraduate deferments.

We have in our midst a great many people, including President Brewster and me, who feel that a random system which would not give wholesale deferments to undergraduates would be preferable to a total undergraduate deferment system.

On the other hand, we are not, right at this moment, considering that question but rather considering the question of graduate deferments.

Since the law now in effect, passed last year, does exempt—defer for the moment—the undergraduates, we are considering the matter of the graduate students.

Now as we consider that group, we are quite interested in having Congress give its attention to that group. We are, however, in hopes that there will be some administrative decision even prior to congressional reconsideration of the whole Selective Service System.