

Now, is there any possibility, General Hershey, in view of the hard-core unemployment we have—this committee is considering manpower retraining, we have just been through this this past year, with a large and detailed discussion on Job Corps, getting these boys off the streets, into camps—would it be feasible in your judgment to have a preinduction training program for these hundreds of thousands that you say are being rejected, to perhaps take them in for 4 to 6 months under military regulations and to make every effort possible to determine whether or not they will make the type of soldier that is needed in this type of war?

Now, the military have said they want the 19-year-olds. Those of us who have served know why they want them in this type of war. The 19-year-old is more adaptable to jungle warfare than someone who is older. But we do have these youths who are roaming our streets.

We want to do something for them. Would it be possible to have a preinduction training program and then determine whether or not they would make satisfactory military men?

General HERSHEY. I want it definitely understood you are hearing from me, and me only, because in the first place I know a great many people who came from the same profession with which I was associated for many, many years who do not agree with me.

I, of course, happen to believe that is what we ought to do. When we have wars on our hands the Armed Forces will plead that they have other things to do. I don't happen to agree but I happen to agree that we ought to use the bases and the ability to train and the people. I agree we can find among Reserve officers, who are not on active duty, to do it and I happen to have some reservations on getting contractors to do it.

I would answer you by saying that I would agree that that ought to be done but remember I speak for nobody but me.

Mr. AYRES. I hope the Congress would take a step in that direction, because I feel it is most important if we are to utilize the manpower that we have in this country, because they are not being rejected for physical reasons.

One last question, if this new program is not passed, may we have to extend the length of service as we did in World War II or call up additional reserves?

General HERSHEY. One of the questions of what we have to depends on what we don't do some other way. I can't get into the Reserve or National Guard business for two reasons.

One, I don't know anything about it; secondly, I don't have any responsibility in that area.

Mr. AYRES. Will we have to lengthen the service of those who were told they have 2 years to serve?

General HERSHEY. No; unless the forces are increased a great deal, because we are not now being bothered by a shortage. We are suffering with overage.

Mrs. GREEN. I am sympathetic to the questions that have been asked by my colleague, but I do hope this morning will not be used to fight the Vietnam war or to make major military decisions. I hope the question will be directed to the impact of the current draft policy on graduate education.