

Congress Brademas?

Mr. BRADEMAS. Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

Mrs. Vetter, General Hershey, and gentlemen, we appreciate very much your coming this morning. As you may be aware, we have had some hearings on the subject of higher education legislation, and we have been concerned with such problems as how we can provide more effective forms of student aid and more effective assistance to colleges and universities for facilities, classrooms, and laboratories.

The impact of the Selective Service System naturally bears directly on the kind of legislation we are considering. If, for example, we are going to have a 50-percent drop in graduate school enrollments that fact may tell us a great deal about the kind of higher education legislation that we write in this committee.

I am especially glad, as the Congressman from Indiana, to welcome General Hershey, a citizen of my State who has served our country long and faithfully and well.

I am struck by the fact that this is the year 1968, which marks the 10th anniversary of the passage of the National Defense Education Act. We passed this legislation, you will recall, in large measure in response to a sudden awareness in our country, following the Soviets' Sputnik, that trained and educated men and women are essential to the defense and security of our country.

We came to realize that brainpower may have a great deal to do with military power. I was most interested, therefore to note the, to me, very dramatic statement of Mrs. Vetter of the Scientific Manpower Commission which I will quote:

Since Russia is producing both engineers and scientists at a faster rate than we are and of course utilizing them in their area of specialty training, it seems quite possible that we may find ourselves at a severe disadvantage in our efforts to prevent the spread of communism a few years from now.

Her statement of course is made in direct comment on the recently announced change in policy of the Selective Service System affecting the drafting of graduate students. General Hershey, I am obviously not going to suggest that you are soft on communism, but I should have thought that if we have learned anything in this country in the last 10 years, we have learned that having an adequate supply of trained and educated men and women is enormously important, indeed, crucial, to the security of our country, which is what I thought the Selective Service had something to do with.

Having said that, I would like to raise a few questions and ask any of you to make any comment you may wish. I wonder—especially in terms of Mrs. Vetter's comment about the importance of long-range manpower planning—if any planning has been done at the highest levels of our Government in terms of the long-range impact of the new selective service graduate school policy upon such areas as, for instance, the gross national product? For example, to what extent will this new policy lead, within a given timespan, to a drop in gross national product and consequently a drop in Federal tax revenues?

What will be the impact of this new policy on all sectors of the Nation's scientific effort, to which Dr. Trytten made reference in his statement when he said:

There can be little doubt that scientific effort in the United States will pay a substantial penalty.