

Congressman Thompson, do you have any questions?

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I don't know whether women should be drafted or not but it sounds like they will be quite safe in graduate schools.

I appreciate very much the contribution that everyone has made. I was particularly glad to hear Dr. Brewster and Dean Miller emphasize what they believe to be the need for a broad selection policy.

The humanist is as valuable to the future as anyone else. Now, of course, they are being deferred. I quite agree that the impact of the newly announced selection policy is going to be tragic on a generation or two of brilliant youngsters. Moreover, I am not confident that they are going to serve in the armed services and then come back and go to graduate school for a great variety of reasons, not the least of which is that they will have other commitments and perhaps won't have the financial resources notwithstanding the GI bill.

I, too, agree that the system as it exists now is inequitable and that there should be random selection induction. I think that young men of draft age ought to be able to postpone their service for the period that they are attending college. So should the apprentices and vocational students, so that there won't be the drain from any single segment of our society, the inequitable drain that exists today.

I intend to cosponsor Senator Kennedy's legislation on this subject.

General Hershey, Mrs. Mink, who had to leave, left some questions that she would like answered.

Since the local boards will now have the discretion to determine occupational deferments unless the whole system is changed, based on local community needs and since you have stated your confidence in the local boards to make reasonable judgments, is it correct that local boards have already had discretionary powers?

General HERSHEY. They had the discretionary power because this critical list was never anything but evidence. You have withdrawn some evidence. I didn't think it was the primary evidence. I may be very well wrong.

I don't expect to see this sudden group in occupational deferment. I would not be surprised if it would go up.

Mr. THOMPSON. Some boards are going to have much more trouble than others. It is obvious. In Alexandria and Arlington, in northern Virginia, up to 80 percent of the youngsters graduating from high school go to college. Their pool is going to be virtually all college people.

The average induction level is going to rise from its present level in that area, and it is not by any means the only such area in which this will occur. Therefore, you are going to have a vast number of college graduate buck privates to deal with in the Army. I think that is going to be quite a difficult thing.

Mrs. GREEN. Would you yield at this point?

Mr. THOMPSON. Yes.

Mrs. GREEN. To go back to the deferment based on community needs, you stated that you do not think that there will be any major change in the occupational deferment.

Aren't we really substituting a national policy on occupational deferment for a policy that is determined by each community? It would