

seem to me it would be far more subject to abuse than if there were one national policy that measured in some intelligent way, or at least to the best of our ability, what our national needs were.

General HERSHEY. In view of the area in which I find myself today, a man who has 10 granddaughters, I hesitate to even say just anything, but it is true that a national policy is a wonderful thing. It never exists, however, except as it is applied.

If a national policy happened to be the least bit wrong, and if it were applied completely, then it would be manifestly terrible and a great deal worse than if you had 4,000 policies and probably not more than half of them would be wrong.

I think there are a lot of people around Washington who thought that when they went on the critical skill list that they were deferred on it. They were not, because they had to be doing something.

A great many people have a skill that they are not using at the time they are looked at, or if they are using it, there are two or three other people who can take their place, and therefore you can't make any virtue of their being necessary where they are.

Mr. THOMPSON. But, General, in discussing deferment policy you used the phrase, "people doing something," and yet you are not definitive about what they are doing. Nor are you definitive as to those occupations or professions, aside from the field of health, which you consider to be critical.

General HERSHEY. The critical skill business we are out of, because it has been suspended, the critical skills as determined nationally.

That does not mean that the local board cannot make up its mind on a critical skill locally.

I don't believe we have had critical skills nationally very much, anyway. I have as much confidence as some people have in the committees up here that put certain words down on pages. Unless you can relate those to something out in the field, I don't think they have much significance.

I want to again insist a lot of times people have thought when you get on a critical list, somehow you walk around with a card, and the local board immediately will not let you in.

It was evidence. It was never anything more than evidence. It might have been quite persuasive, because when some Cabinet officer says that a skill is nationally critical, it may have some effect on a local board looking at a man who says he has that skill, and perhaps his employer says so.

Mr. THOMPSON. What you are saying, General, is that there is no, and there has been no national policy, and that there are in fact no real guidelines to the local boards.

General HERSHEY. No, I would object of that a great deal, because the Congress, itself, has given us pages and pages of guidelines for local board.

We have laws that Congress, and I think very wisely, gave the President power to issue Executive orders. National headquarters, not to be outdone, at times has sent out advice, but just the same, that does not mean that they have no guidelines, but on the other hand, it does mean that no one here, either by law or by regulation, is going out into the community where I live and decide by something that