

comes from here whether John Jones is necessary to teach school out there.

I can point out lots of places in the United States where a school-teacher is very necessary. I can point out other places where there are some excess, and therefore we can't be deferring under a general rule.

We have to actually see the thing. Even our courts never decide things without hearing the evidence of the particular person who is before the court.

Mr. THOMPSON. Speaking of that, General Hershey, how many appeals were sent to you from the local boards in 1967?

General HERSHEY. I will be glad to furnish it, because where I get appeals mostly are the Presidential Appeal Board.

In the first place, a man does not have to go anywhere for an appeal from his local board, because he has one. All he has to do is say, "I do not like this decision." Of course, he may not like the one he gets from the appeal board, but no one is making him fill out some form, according to some particular guideline. All we want to know is that he does not like his deferment, so he has one chance.

Mr. THOMPSON. Would you provide us also with information on how many times you have overruled local boards?

General HERSHEY. I did not get that.

Mr. THOMPSON. Could you supply us also with information on how many times you have overruled local boards?

General HERSHEY. I never overrule a local board—I can answer that very quickly—because the Congress in its wisdom never gave me the power to classify anybody any more than it did the Supreme Court of the United States.

The word "classification" is the one that only goes to the local boards, the appeal boards, and the National Appeal Board. The Selective Service Director cannot overrule anybody on a classification, because he has no power. I make no classifications. I have never made any.

Mr. THOMPSON. Do you have the authority to review decisions or appeals by local boards?

General HERSHEY. I have a right, and I get them every night by telephone, because my number is listed, telephone calls from people who want me to take appeal for them.

I call in their file, and if there is any doubt, if he has already been through the local board, and the appeal board in his State, the only thing I can do is take the appeal to the National Appeal Board, and I have taken them by the thousands.

I will be glad to furnish you with the number we have taken the last year from the State appeal board to the National.

Once in a great while we take an appeal from a local board to a State board, but unless the man has let his 30 days overrun, he does not have to come to us, because he has that power, himself.

What happens is that if he gets up to the appeal board, and they are all against him, and he goes to the State director, and he won't take his appeal, then his appeal is for me to take his appeal for him, but I don't make the classification.

Mr. THOMPSON. I understand that, but do you make any decisions, or are you just a conduit?