

Mr. AYRES. They would like to have him right now.

General HERSHEY. We will look into that.

I don't want to make anybody think I make snap judgments, but we help youngsters out like that a great many times, although I must say that our good friends over in the Armed Forces are quite lavish with promises of when they will take somebody, and then they will suddenly take somebody else, and their quota is lower.

At the present time I am helping a youngster out that was promised that they would take him in January. Somebody else came along that they preferred, so they postponed it again. I am waiting it out with the youngster.

I am openminded, and have a lot of sympathy for these individuals. I was in the Armed Forces. I used to get recruits that had been told where they were going by recruiters, and it was not to Fort Bliss, Tex.

Mr. AYRES. Thank you very much, General. I know with your reputation for fairness, we will be able to work this out.

Mrs. GREEN. Mr. Erlendborn.

Mr. ERLENDBORN. To complete my line of questioning, if the prime age group of 19 were designated, and the graduates of this year and the graduate students who are losing their deferment this year were all thrown in the same pool, could you tell me approximately what numbers would be in that prime age group?

General HERSHEY. In the first place, of course, the 19-year-olds—and remember the system recommended by the Advisory Committee had an idea that there were going to be no deferments.

Now, we have to subtract from the 19's, all the individuals who will be in college. Normally we start with about 1,900,000. Probably 700,000 will never pass, anyway, and part of those are deferred, but I think you can find that these individuals, whatever hundreds of thousands there are coming out this next spring, would probably drop into an area where they would be perhaps one for one, or perhaps two 19-year-olds for each one.

I would think probably that their numbers would be less than the ones that the 19's had deferred, there is no question about that. Still they would be a sizable part of it, but not near, of course, the fraction that they would be if they were off alone as 25-year-olds or 24-year-olds.

Mr. ERLENDBORN. In other words, the recent graduates and those who just lost their deferment would have a chance, maybe 50 percent or 33 percent, somewhere in that range, of being drafted, rather than 100 percent?

General HERSHEY. Yes.

I don't think it is a hundred percent. On the other hand, this is one of the unfortunate things. Suppose the boy's birthday is in October, and he thinks in that year they will not get down to him, and it is touch and go, and then the call goes up, and here he goes to school, and then we have to either take care of him by trying to make some provision to let him stay in. Certainty on random choice is only relative.

You never know in a random choice whether they are going to get to you or not, because it all depends on supply and demand.

Mr. ERLENDBORN. Thank you very much.