

As I understood his answer to the last question, on the issue of the prime age group, he believes that if he were instructed by the Department of Defense to work out a system or administer a system which put the graduate students who have lost their deferments, the present college graduates, and the 19-year-olds who are not in college or vocational or apprenticeship training, into a single class of eligibles for 1-A classification for induction, that this, (a) would be legal, and, (b) could be administratively feasible.

This seems to me to be an immensely important revelation. I think those of us in the educational community had hoped that this were possible. We had feared that either it was opposed by those in charge of the policy, or that it was not thought to be feasible by those in charge of the policy.

I realize that there are these problems of legal interpretation, but with the support of those who played a major part in the passage of the present legislation, I would simply want to say as a member of the educational community, I would hope that General Hershey's promising statement, that he does not want to say it is impossible, and would make every effort to make it possible, will be followed up.

Mrs. GREEN. May I say, Dr. Brewster, that the chairman of the Armed Services Committee feels this way. I have talked to him about it.

This is clearly within the law, and they do have the authority to do this at the present time. It does not require legislative action.

Mr. QUIE. Will the gentlelady yield, on that?

It is not the responsibility of General Hershey or the responsibility of L. Mendel Rivers. It is the responsibility of the President to do it.

Mr. HARRINGTON. The Secretary of Defense.

We would like to underscore this, because it is a key point.

As Congressman Erlenborn said, "to get legislative change now would be very difficult, and would take a substantial length of time. Therefore, in taking care of the immediate problem we face, administrative changes are much more desirable."

If, as General Hershey says, the Secretary of Defense ordered, specified, that you pool age groups, then these people now graduating from college would be considered age 19, as well as the 19-year-olds, and therefore a recent graduate of college who wanted to go into graduate school, born on June 1, would be younger than a 19-year-old born in January, by this device.

That would mean, therefore, that you would not be pulling in all the graduates of college, all the graduate students. You would be pulling in some of them on an equitable basis, but would be keeping graduate schools functioning.

You would be training teachers, you would be training research people, and you would get a flow of people into the selective service at different ages, which, of course, would be better, from the military point of view.

Mrs. GREEN. Congressman Bell.

Mr. BELL. General Hershey, I just have two quick questions.

What is the philosophical justification for providing by law for the undergraduate deferments?

General HERSHEY. Providing by law what kind of deferments?