

But within the limited certainty of things going as they are now, my answer would be "Yes."

Mr. REID. I would merely add this comment, General Hershey. I appreciate your answer that it can be done, and it can be done promptly.

I think the concept that some of us, at least, hold is that all Americans should face an equal opportunity for service. I personally would favor random selection, some form of lottery. We are not faced with that at the moment.

I would be happy to consider it, either through the President's action or the Congress action, but I do think it would be highly inequitable to the institutions, individual and national interest, to suddenly draft all of our graduate students and our college students, or place them in a position where they are about to be drafted.

That does not seem to me to be equal treatment, or equal or wise planning, so I very much hope that you will consider this matter.

I am sure that our committee may well want to talk soon with the Secretary of Defense.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Mrs. GREEN. Yes. I will say I will agree with those comments, and will make one additional one.

I am not sure that I like a policy which makes the college graduate and the graduate student the most vulnerable group in our entire country. It seems to me this is what the current policy does, unless there is a change.

General Hershey, if I may again refer to Congressman Rivers' letter to you, and this relates to a point which President Brewster mentioned, and I think it was his third alternative, but something that could be done right away. Congressman Rivers said:

On the other hand, I do have reservations concerning the manner in which this policy decision may be implemented. I believe certain aspects of this decision require additional study and possibly corrective action.

Many educators point out that this abrupt change in graduate student policy makes no provision for a student pursuing graduate studies who may at some time in the future be identified for induction. It would appear that these graduate students would not under existing regulations or policies be permitted to finish the academic term in which they are engaged.

Obviously, to require the graduate student to abruptly terminate his studies in the middle of an academic term will have an unfortunate and adverse impact on not only his own personal academic effort, but also on the administrative planning of the institution in which he is enrolled.

Could you advise this committee if there is any decision by which the Selective Service System could respond to the suggestion made by Congressman Rivers' and by others?

General HERSHEY. I thought I testified today that the individuals who came either under the 12-month rule of last year or under the 1-year rule of the master's, or under the 5 years, whatever it was, for the doctor's, I considered that this year it was given to these short of the 1 year, and I still consider it so.

Therefore, I should do anything I could if I heard of anybody who was in graduate school under the 1-year rule being interfered with short of the year.

I don't know whether that answers the question, or not.

The next question is what are we going to do about the individual who goes into graduate school next fall, and when do we have to get