

Mr. STEIGER. May I follow up on General Hershey's statement?

Did I hear you correctly, General, that you do have the authority as Director of Selective Service to overrule a local draft board in an individual case to postpone the time at which he is called?

General HERSHEY. I do not overrule, because it does not change his classification, but the Director of Selective Service does have the power to postpone.

From a public relations standpoint, the Director of Selective Service has got to try to postpone within reason, because otherwise it looks as though he is trying to usurp rather than trying to aid.

Therefore one of the problems we will have when we discuss this on Monday is whether we will want to postpone for 8 months, or 4 months, or 3 months.

Those are the things.

I can be impeached—I have not been, but it is possible—for stretching an authority that was given for good reason, but was used without reason.

Mrs. GREEN. General Hershey, is it true now that any local draft board can allow the student to finish the academic semester?

General HERSHEY. Can do what?

Mrs. GREEN. It is possible at the present time for any local draft board to allow any student to finish the academic semester in which he is?

General HERSHEY. Yes.

In the first place, of course, under the new law, the 1-S is a little shaky. On the other hand, the local board has some powers of postponement.

For instance, you probably read, and it happens to have been in your State, you happened to lost two boys in one family up there. They have a boy that is about ready to be inducted. That local board has deferred him for a year, and I think it is for a compassionate reason.

I can probably see some lawyers say it was not legal, but that does not disturb me any. I think they used excellent sense, because they happened to have a 10-year-old boy, so he was not the sole surviving son, yet here they lost two in a very short time.

I don't think the local board went beyond its authority. Some strict constructionist might think so. I think the local board will use a great deal of judgment on interrupting individuals in the course of their instruction. I don't anticipate too much difficulty in arriving at something that does not have some very glaring things about it, in trying to arrive at some way where the person who in good faith entered in a year with some reason, at least, let us say a basis in fact, whatever that may mean, for believing he might finish the year, and it did not quite turn out that way, so you used grace, because you figure he makes a better soldier when you get him.

Mrs. GREEN. If this is the authority that the local draft board has now, it would seem to me that there would be a tremendous advantage in having a national policy, so that colleges and universities would know ahead of time, so that this committee would know, when we are trying to decide the number of fellowships, and so on, that we are to have.