

formly throughout the country," the Marshall Commission has so recommended, fairness and commonsense so demand, and nearly half of local board members themselves so believe would be an improvement.

The 1967 amendments permit the President to establish national standards for classification, and to require that these standards be uniformly administered throughout the country. My bill would make the adoption of national standards and criteria mandatory, and would require that they be administered uniformly.

I should point out that these national standards would not be utterly inflexible, because they deal not with mathematical measurements but with human beings. The point is simply to be as sure as we can that a young man in one part of the country faces the same exposure to the draft as in another part of the country.

Accidents of geography should not determine who goes to war and who does not.

HARDSHIP DEFERMENTS

Hardship deferments must be continued. There are many individual cases where drafting a young man would cause a severe hardship either to him or to his family. One case often cited as an example is that of the 19-year-old boy who works to support his widowed mother and his brothers and sisters. Taking the wage earner away from his family for 2 years in this instance is an undesirable hardship.

Under my bill, the initial hardship deferment classification would be made by an area Selective Service office, instead of by local boards as is now the case. Appeals regarding this initial classification would be presented to local boards. This combination will assure a greater uniformity than presently exists in conditions governing hardship deferments, but at the same time retain the familiarity with local problems which is potentially a distinguishing mark of the local boards.

OCCUPATIONAL DEFERMENTS

When he testified on the Manpower Implications of Selective Service, Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz said:

"It is my position that there is little basis in the present or prospective manpower situation for any 'occupational deferments' from military service—especially if the draft call is concentrated on the 19-year age group."

He made this unequivocal statement from a unique vantage point: Secretary Wirtz is this Nation's chief manpower specialist. In the past, he was charged with determining which "critical occupations" should be deferrable. So he made that statement with a broad background of expertise. He also pointed out that more than half of those with occupational deferments were in jobs classified as neither essential activities nor critical occupations.

The Marshall Commission made a similar recommendation, saying that "no new deferments for occupation should be granted in the future." In the 1967 amendments to the draft law, Congress directed the National Security Council to recommend policies on occupational deferments. Pursuant to this directive, the National Security Council recommended on February 16, 1968, that occupational deferments be discontinued. Its memorandum of advice said in part:

"The National Security Council advises that the Secretaries of Defense, Labor and Commerce should maintain a continuing surveillance over the nation's manpower needs and identify any particular occupation or skill that may warrant qualifying for deferment on a uniform national basis. When any such occupation or skill is so identified, the Council will be notified so that it may consider the need and advise the Director of the Selective Service System accordingly.

This recommendation is based on these considerations:

The needs of the Armed Forces do not now require such occupational deferments.

The needs of the civilian economy do not now require such occupational deferments.

The inherent inequity, at a time when men are called upon to risk their lives for the nation, in any such occupational deferments from military service which may in practice turn into permanent exemptions."

That, too, is an unequivocal statement.

But the advice transmitted to State directors of the Selective Service, and to local boards, varies widely from that advice. General Hershey's telegram to State