

both the nation and the Armed Services will benefit from the services of highly educated and competent personnel, I urge the adoption of a delayed induction plan which would couple the interest of defense with educational attainment.

I would appreciate your comments on the feasibility and implementation of such a delayed induction program.

Sincerely,

JACKSON E. BETTS.

The response I received from General Hershey was to the effect that induction and military service prior to graduate study would not be harmful to the students themselves or the Nation. This thesis was also present in a response to the letter from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Thomas D. Morris. I disagree with this position and believe that either through an expanded interpretation of the I-D deferment classification or new regulations for delayed enlistment by the services themselves, this plan could be effectively implemented. If these two approaches fall short of adequate authority, the President can incorporate the plan into selective service regulations by Executive order.

This delayed induction program was advanced by the National Advisory Commission on Selective Service. The Commission's report on page 44 states:

"To satisfy the recommendations against student deferments, however, such officer programs—which might even include scholarship programs, if necessary—would have to be based on a binding contract in effect during the man's time in college, committing him to entry into the Armed Forces as an enlisted man if he did not complete his program, and to training and service as an officer for a specified time after graduation."

The crux of this plan is already embodied in the military services join-now serve-later concept. Graduate students certainly possess the "special qualifications" which are required for later induction by the services. Let these qualifications be recognized and incorporated into military manpower requirements and both educational goals and the defense needs of our country will be met. I wrote to each of the services to learn if they currently operate a delayed induction program. They do. It allows an enlistee up to 120 days to complete work, study or personal obligations before beginning training. All I am recommending is that this limited delay in induction be extended to up to 3 years. Here are the letters I received regarding present delayed induction from the services:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D.C., August 7, 1967.

Hon. JACKSON E. BETTS,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. BETTS: This is in reply to your inquiry concerning delayed entry into military service.

Since the Selective Service System determines eligibility for all deferments from induction, this reply applies only to men entering the United States Army on a voluntary basis.

The Army does have a delayed entry program which gives a man who otherwise might be subject to induction up to four months to continue personal endeavors. Personnel who have received orders to report for induction are not eligible since they fall under the jurisdiction of Selective Service. Under this program, men enlisting in the United States Army Reserve for six years are required to serve three years on active duty with a delay of up to 120 days in reporting for entry on active duty. These men are eligible to apply for training of their choice and, if qualified, are guaranteed this training prior to enlistment.

It may be of interest to you that college graduates who have completed ROTC training and been commissioned in the United States Army Reserve may request a delay in reporting for active duty if they have been accepted by a recognized institution of higher education for graduate or professional study, would suffer undue hardship, or for other cogent reasons. Delays are granted in one year increments. Additional delay for graduate study is dependent upon academic progress.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

J. L. BLACKWELL,
Colonel, GS, Office, Chief of Legislative Liaisons.