

The college student and national defense

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Brown is executive secretary of the subcommittee on military affairs of the national committee on education and defense, as well as secretary of the subcommittee on education of the joint army and navy committee on welfare and recreation. At the recent national defense conference of college and university presidents in Washington, Dr. Brown discussed the work of campus defense councils. In the present series of stories, he explains for students the manner in which national defense is affecting college life.)

By DR. FRANCIS J. BROWN.

Today there is a solemn undertone on every college and university campus. At the recent conference of college administrators there was frequent mention, not of "jitterbugs" but of "campus jitters." There is still laughter and "swing"—as there should be—but even casual conversation after class, in the student's building, and around the fraternity dinner table is often interspersed with questions—questions that are recurrently uppermost in the mind of every student:

- How were you classified?
- Do you think I ought to volunteer?
- Will the army use my special training?
- When will those who weren't 21 last October come into the draft?
- Should I come back to school at all next fall?
- What can women do toward national defense?

These questions are asked in all sincerity, for students, like the faculty and the administration, want to aid national defense. They have no desire to evade responsibility nor to shirk the opportunity of service.

These are, nevertheless, difficult questions. Some the students will have to decide for himself; others can be answered only as plans develop and as decisions are made. For all, the answers must be tentative as no one can predict the events of the next few months.

Classification by draft boards

Everyone who registered last October will eventually be classified by his local draft board. Altho men will be called in the order in which their numbers were drawn, the time at which a particular number will be called will vary with the local board. A man who has number 832 may have already been "called" in one area, and in another, may not receive his notice to report for several weeks or months. This is inevitable. The quota of draftees is prorated statistically for each area. However, there are two variables which determine the time when registrant 832 will be called: the number of men preceding him who are deferred, and the number who volunteer, since each board is given "credit" for every volunteer registered.

There are four major classifications: Class IV, deferred because of mental or physical condition; class III, deferred because of dependents; class II, deferred because of occupational status; and class I, eligible for service. In the last are the student classifications: I-D, eligible for unrestricted service, and I-E, restricted service, at the end of the current academic year.

Draft boards are instructed to look for these factors in the order named. A father of two children who is a "necessary" man in an essential industry, but who is physically disabled would be placed in class IV since this is the first basis for deferment.

In the case of students, many draft boards have not followed this policy. Since it is mandatory, if the student requests it, to place him in class I-D or I-E, the boards have frequently granted this classification without appraising other factors. Each student so classified will be reclassified prior to induction. The recent decision by national selective headquarters requiring the reclassification of students originally placed in class I-D or I-E is extremely important, for it compels the local board to determine for each student individually whether he shall be classified in I-A or II-A. For the most part, students who are physically and mentally fit will then be placed in class I-A and called for induction at the end of the school year.

Serious loss possible

If this is done automatically and

without careful concern for the best interest of total defense, there will be a serious loss to the nation. Selective service regulations provide for the occupational deferment of the individual who is preparing for an occupation essential to the "national health, safety, or interest" and who is potentially a "necessary" man.

The subcommittee on military affairs of the national committee on education and defense and the national academy of sciences have attempted to identify some of the professional fields essential to national defense. They include: medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy; biology, bacteriology, and any other branch of biological science which bears directly upon problems of medicine or the public health or safety; chemistry; physics; geology and geophysics, including meteorology, hydrology, and cartography; engineering, including civil, electrical, chemical, mechanical, agricultural, sanitary, and mining.

The local board has full responsibility, subject to appeal, for determining who is "necessary" and, therefore, eligible for class II deferment. However, the draft board as well as the institution and the student have the responsibility of insuring a continuous supply of trained men in essential fields.

No student should request occupational deferment simply on the basis of personal convenience. The decision should be made only after carefully thinking thru two questions: Is the field for which I am preparing essential to the national health, safety, or interest? Have I advanced far enough, and do I possess qualifications making me potentially a necessary man in this field? The faculty member who has been given the responsibility of advising students on selective service questions will be of genuine assistance in making the decision. In many institutions, when deferment seems wise, the university official endorses the student's request by a letter to his local board.

Local board policies vary

One cause of "campus jitters" is the wide variance in the decisions of local boards regarding students. Two roommates of junior standing in the same medical school were classified by different draft boards. Altho they were practically of equal ability, one was given I-D status and required to report for service at the end of the present school year; the other, II-A status permitting him to continue his professional training. This is unfortunate, but there are approximately 6,500 local draft boards, and the draft machinery is only now getting into high gear. Many of the inconsistencies in draft board decisions will undoubtedly be ironed out as definite policies are developed.

The subcommittee on military affairs is making a national survey of draft board decisions regarding college students. The results to date indicate that it may be unwise to wait for the slow process of trial and error to correct present inconsistencies. There are two alternatives: for national selective service headquarters to issue definite regulations listing essential occupations, or for Congress to enact legislation requiring deferment of selected individuals in essential defense fields.

The subcommittee, representing the college and university associations embracing all recognized institutions of higher learning, is giving earnest study to this entire problem. In the very near future there may be a more predictable answer to the question—How should college students be classified by local draft boards? An answer that will be in the best interests of both immediate and long-range defense needs.

Notre Dame built its first heating plant in 1881, replaced it in 1899, and installed a third in 1931.

Theologian talks at open meeting about evolution

Dr. Theodore Graebner, of the Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, will speak on "Evolution, a Scientific Appraisal" Friday at 8 p. m. before a meeting sponsored by the Lutheran association.

The talk, to be given in social sciences auditorium, is open to all students and faculty members. Dr. Graebner is a charter member of the Missouri Academy of Science, the Victoria Institute of Great Britain, and the Philosophy Group of St. Louis.

Follies—

(Continued from Page 1.)

at the first elimination contest a month ago at which 19 sorority and barb organizations vied for the honor of appearing in the Follies.

Theta skit.

Kappa Alpha Theta's skit shows a girls' conscription camp and features an original song; Pi Beta Phi will give a take-off on the university appropriations; Delta Gamma intends to present a show similar to "Winnie the Pooh"; Delta Delta Delta will give "Utopia in the Study Hall"; and Chi Omega will dramatize the qualities necessary for the ideal coed.

In the curtain acts, Sigma Delta Tau is presenting the life of a college coed; Rosa Bouton Hall will present an act about strife and victory, and Dorothy and Marge Clark, the Kappa twins, will give the Kappa Kappa Gamma's musical act.

Krause is commentator.

Dame Fashion, Marge Krause Weillinger, will be commentator for the show, and Ben Alice Day, who is in charge of presentation, promises that it will be different.

BDG candidates are: Betty Mueller, Alpha Chi Omega; Dorothy Latsch, Alpha Omicron Pi; Gloria Hanson, Chi Omega; Helen Roberson, Delta Delta Delta; Ann Beard, Kappa Alpha Theta; Marianne Goffe, Kappa Deltas; Ruth Hult; Phi Mu; Sylvia Epstein; Sigma Delta Tau; Dorothy Stotts, Carrie Belle Raymond hall; Frances Drenguis, Love Memorial.

Virginia Clark, Northwest hall of Raymond Hall; Doreen Fisher, Wilson hall; Pat Prime, Alpha Phi; Annette Biernbaum, Alpha Xi Delta; Bette Rathburn, Delta Gamma; Maxine Hoffman, Gamma Phi Beta; Suzanne Woodruff, Kappa Kappa Gamma; Marge Owen, Phi Beta Phi, and Ruth Ann Sheldon, home ec association.

Bulletin

UPPERCLASS AWS. There will be an upperclass AWS meeting today.

BARB SWIMMING PARTY. There will be a barb swimming party in the coliseum at 2:30 p. m. Saturday. Reservations must be made in the barb office, or by phoning 3-3269.

Mayer to interview students tomorrow

Seniors and graduates who may be interested in accounting, banking, or secretarial work are invited to meet P. M. Mayer, personnel director for the Farm Credit Administration of Omaha, according to Prof. T. T. Bullock. Mr. Mayer will be here tomorrow. Group meetings held at 9 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.

The Daily Nebraskan

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