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"EDUCATIONAL DEFERMENTS"

There are no formal educational deferments under the Selective Training and Service Act.¹ However, registrants who fall within the groups below are permitted to continue formal educational training.

First, there are those deferred by local boards for the purpose of completing a school term. Although deferment of college students until July 1, 1941 was provided for in the original Act,² the present policy is to postpone induction only in the case of extreme emergency.³ Deferment is on an individual basis and completely within the discretion of the local board.⁴ The registrant is left in Class I-A during the interim of his postponement.⁵ Where a registrant claimed deferment for the term of a school year for the purpose of finishing work upon his degree, his claim was denied.⁶

Secondly, students in divinity schools must register⁷ but are deferred⁸ so long as they continue that training. But as active ministers

alibi for men who should enlist. See Walker, *Wartime Labor Problems in Australia* (1941) 44 INT. LAB. REV. 389, 396.

⁶⁸ Note (1941) 53 MONTH. LAB. REV. 607, 608.

¹ Most so-called "educational deferments" are occupational deferments, the third group discussed herein. See Sel. Ser. Reg. §§ 622.21 to 622.24 (1942).

² 54 STAT. 885, 50 U.S.C.A. 305 (Supp. 1940).

³ Sel. Ser. Reg. § 633.1 (1942). Previous to this, local boards could postpone induction until the end of a semester where the registrant had completed more than half of the school term. Sel. Ser. Sys., Local Board Release No. 34(10), Sept. 16, 1941. In England, certificates of six months duration are issued in the instance of "exceptional personal hardship." Local Hardship Committees are split on whether a certificate should be renewed to allow the registrant to take a bar or public accountant examination. Note (1940) 90 L.J. 65. It is settled that two attempts to pass such an examination are sufficient. (1940) 90 L.J. 117.

⁴ Sel. Ser. Reg. § 623.23 (1942).

⁵ Sel. Ser. Sys., Local Board Release No. 34(8), Sept. 16, 1941.

⁶ Local Draft Board No. 1 of Silver Bow County, Mont. v. Conners, 124 F. (2d) 388 (C.C.A. 9th, 1941).

⁷ Sel. Ser. Reg. § 611.1 (1942). Eight divinity students who failed to register in New York City were sentenced by the federal court. N.Y. Times, Nov. 15, 1940, p. 1, col. 2; Note (1941) 15 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. 346 for other instances.

⁸ Sel. Ser. Reg. § 622.44(a) (1942).

are also deferred, deferment in this connection is apparently granted for the purpose of maintaining a sufficient supply of clergy. Divinity students may waive the automatic deferment granted their profession and stand upon their conscientious scruples alone,⁹ however; or they may volunteer for the armed forces.

The third group deferred to continue formal educational pursuits are those in training to fill occupations essential to civilian activity or to the war production program,¹⁰ and persons who are acquiring knowledge that may be useful to the armed forces at a later date. Chief among these are civilian pilot trainees of the Civil Aeronautics Administration,¹¹ students enrolled in the special course in meteorology of the Weather Bureau,¹² persons enrolled in the special industrial engineering course at Harvard University,¹³ advanced students in chemistry, physics, physical education, engineering,¹⁴ biology, naval architecture,¹⁵ osteopathy,¹⁶ scientific agriculture,¹⁷ and pre-professional students of medicine,¹⁸ dentistry,¹⁹ and veterinary medicine.²⁰

⁹ In such instance the registrant should file Form 47. Sel. Ser. Reg. § 621.3 (1942); see Schomer *letter to the editor* (1941) 152 NATION 55.

¹⁰ Sel. Ser. Reg. §§ 622.21 and 622.22 (1942); see Note, *Occupational Deferments* (1942) 17 IND. L.J., *supra*.

¹¹ Completion of the elementary and secondary courses qualifies one for admission to the Army and Navy Air Corps at an advanced stage. See *War Service Opportunities* (Am. Council on Educ. 1942) 3.

¹² Upon completion of the course one may apply for a commission in the Army or Navy, but must agree to accept employment in Civil Service if his application is not granted. *Id.* at 8. The demand for trained meteorologists is great.

¹³ Both a twelve month course leading to the degree of Industrial Engineer (I.E.) and a three months short course are offered.

¹⁴ Sel. Ser. Sys., Local Board Release No. 83, Jan. 12, 1942 (including all four groups); *Hearings before Committee on Military Affairs on H.R. 6215*, 77th Cong., 1st Sess. (1941) 9. As to the great need for aeronautical engineers, see Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-119, May 27, 1941.

¹⁵ Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-205, Aug. 11, 1941. The Webb Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of Michigan are the only accredited schools.

¹⁶ Sel. Ser. Sys., Local Board Release No. 23, Aug. 18, 1941.

¹⁷ The need for scientific methods is great. As long as a year ago the East North Central states suffered a 21.6% reduction in available farm labor supply. See Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-116, May 23, 1941.

¹⁸ Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-62, May 2, 1941; *Hearings before Committee on Military Affairs on S. 733*, 77th Cong., 1st Sess. (1941) 127. See Eanes, *The Need For Doctors in BOUTWELL, AMERICA PREPARES FOR TOMORROW* (1941) 578. In England, a person successfully completing two years of pre-medical training was not allowed to finish his education. (1940) 89 L.J. 192.

¹⁹ Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-99, May 12, 1941. Congressman Faddis introduced H.R. 4418 which called for exemption of both dental and medical students from training and service.

²⁰ Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-98, May 12, 1941.

The fourth group consists of those persons already under the jurisdiction of the armed forces. Group deferments are made by the service itself rather than by the local board on an individual basis. The Selective Training and Service Act did not even require the registration of midshipmen in the Naval Academy, cadets in the Military and Coast Guard Academies, and persons enrolled in the Reserve Officers Training Corps of the Army and Navy.²¹

Since the first registration of manpower, the services have come forward with various programs suited to fill their demands. Among these are the Army Quartermaster Corps program conducted by Harvard University on a graduate level²² (in conjunction with the academic program of 18 months leading to the degree of Master of Business Administration) and by several other schools on the undergraduate level.²³ Upon completion of either course the student qualifies for a Second Lieutenant's commission in the Quartermaster Reserve. Qualified college graduates who are commissioned as Ensigns in the Naval Supply Corps Reserve are sent to the Harvard School of Business for a three-months training period.²⁴ Both the Army and Navy Air Corps are using the facilities of five different schools for a nine months training period in meteorology.²⁵ In both cases college seniors and graduates with a background in science are commissioned at the beginning of the course.

Students enrolled in or accepted by accredited medical schools and who are otherwise eligible may apply for commissions as Second Lieutenants in the Medical Administrative Corps, and upon receiving the M.D. degree may make application for the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps Reserve.²⁶ The Navy has a similar arrangement. Students of dentistry and veterinary medicine may qualify for similar programs.²⁷

All of the services do extensive recruiting, generally promising that men entering the reserve will not be called until certain educational

²¹ 54 STAT. 85, 50 U.S.C.A. § 305 (Supp. 1940); Sel. Ser. Reg. § 611.1 (1942).

²² Quartermaster Advanced R.O.T.C. Course, Form No. 14 (Harvard Univ. 1941). The local board will be advised if the registrant is accepted and will thereupon place him in Class IV-B. See Sel. Ser. Reg. § 622.42 (1942).

²³ Michigan State College, and the State Universities of Alabama, Iowa, and Washington are among those participating. Only their own students are eligible.

²⁴ Applications for this special training have been numerous.

²⁵ New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago, California Institute of Technology, and the University of California at Los Angeles. The same schools are used by the Weather Bureau. *War Service Opportunities* (Am. Council on Educ. 1942) 5-8.

²⁶ Local boards may place 3d and 4th year medical students and internes who fail to apply in Class I-A. Sel. Ser. Sys., Local Board Release No. 71, Dec. 24, 1941. See Eanes, *The Need For Doctors* in BOUTWELL, *AMERICA PREPARES FOR TOMORROW* (1941) 578.

²⁷ Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-99, May 12, 1941 (dental); Sel. Ser. Sys., Memo. to All State Directors I-98, May 12, 1941 (veterinary).

qualifications are met. In this connection, the Navy Department recently established the V-1 program designed to recruit college freshmen and sophomores for deck, engineer, and air officers.²⁸ Men who enlist in the V-1 program are not liable to induction, but are counted as inactive apprentice seamen in the Naval Reserve. Toward the end of the second year the 80,000 inactive apprentice seamen will be given a comprehensive examination.²⁹ Those men who score sufficiently high (approximately 15,000) will be permitted to volunteer for class V-7 (Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps), which will permit them to finish their collegiate education.³⁰ Others will be given the opportunity to volunteer for class V-5 (Air Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve), while those who fail to volunteer and those who are not invited to volunteer will remain in class V-1 (apprentice seamen). Classes V-5 and V-1 will be permitted to conclude their second calendar year of academic work.³¹ The Marine Corps attempts to defer its officer candidates until they complete the requirements for a degree, while still more recently the Army Air Corps Reserve has announced that it will permit its student members to finish work for a degree unless the need for personnel becomes acute. In the latter program, the Army Air Corps will suggest but not require the mastery of certain course work.

Although these groups are engaged in formal educational training, the postponement of their entrance into the fighting forces is not compelled by any educational policy. Rather, the primary purpose of an "educational deferment" is to train men in the specific skills necessary for modern warfare.

RELIGIOUS DEFERMENTS

The provisions of the Selective Service Law relating to religious deferments represent an attempt to balance two conflicting ideals of a democratic and Christian people. Men must fight so that our freedom may be preserved, yet in the process of waging war we cannot destroy the very things for which we strive. Without our country's freedom, individual liberties may become ghosts of the past. Freedom of religious thought has been part of our heritage since the early settlement of New England.

Thus although the act "declares that in a free society the obligations and privileges of military training and service should be shared generally in accordance with a fair and just system of selective compulsory military training and service"¹ some exceptions are made for persons because of religious belief and training.

²⁸ *Information for Institutions of Higher Education as to Class V-1* (Navy Dept. 1942) 3-10. For physical requirements for Classes V-1, V-5, and V-7, see *Id.* at 17-21.

²⁹ *Id.* at 5. The examination to be given in March, 1943 will cover the material in the beginning college courses in mathematics and physics as well. *Id.* at 9.

³⁰ "Approximately 5,000 of these will be accepted from standard engineering courses and the remainder from programs acceptable to the Navy Department." *Id.* at 6.

³¹ *Id.* at 5 and 6.

¹ 54 STAT. 885, 50 U.S.C.A. § 301 (Supp. 1940).