

Remarks of Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC, on the Floor of the House of Rep'ves
April 13, 1946, during debate of the Selective Service Act.

I think it is fair to say, generally speaking, that the Selective Service System is not a desirable thing ~~in peacetime~~ except in time of war. No one argues that we should keep the draft ~~as a permanent~~ for its own sake.

The appeal is made that it is necessary to extend the life of the Selective Service System because the Nation needs a certain number of men in its armed forces, and these men can be obtained in no other way.

The ~~armed forces~~ Army has examined its obligations and has arrived at a certain figure which it must maintain in order to carry out the duties assigned to it.

The Navy has done likewise and it is on the basis of these figures that we must make the decision today.

~~The Navy~~ It is my belief that the Navy is not really a factor in the consideration of this problem of extending the draft. The Navy's plans call for 558,000 men as of July 1, 1948. At the present time the Navy has 434,000 men who have enlisted to serve for periods of two to six years. That leaves the Navy at this moment only 124,000 men short of its goal.

The Navy seems to be experiencing no difficulty in recruiting manpower and I believe I recall hearing yesterday a statement ~~that~~ to the effect that a Naval Officer had said the end of the draft in May will have no affect on Navy's manpower.

I have had experience with some men who wished to stay in the Navy after they were eligible for discharge. I discovered the Navy is rather selective and certainly does not indicate its eagerness to take everyone who seeks to enlist.

Yankee Networks (P. Tully)
Herald News
Yesterday Sun
Pawtucket Valley Times
Pro. Journal
Woodrocket Call
Labor Press

The Army's plans call for an army of 1,070,000 men on July 1st 1947. As of April 1st of this year the Army had 672,723 volunteers. It is worthwhile noting that this figure is just over twice as much as the Army's best estimate of enlistments.

According to the figures given us by the Chairma of the Military Affairs Committee "The men received in March (volunteers) were 73,000 and the estimate for April is in excess of that figure". The chart introduced into the Record yesterday shows that 53 per cent of the volunteer inlistments are on the basis of a three year period.

Back in October of ~~last~~ last year when the Secretary o War was arguing for conscription he stated that the Army would be short 170,000 men by July of 1947. ~~At this time the Secretary stated it was absolutely impossible to raise more than 300,000 men through voluntary enlistments.~~ The Army arrives at this figure through a peculiar process. Although in March there were 73,000 volunteers, the Army estimates that enlistemts will ~~be~~ fall off to 20,000 a month and next year they claim the enlistments would drop to 12,500. I think it is fair to compare this reasoning with the Army's assertion that 300,000 volunteers was the absolute top figure they could count on. They have over twice as many now and their predictions about the reduced enlistments are also bad guesses in my estimation.

These estimates of the War Department do not take into consideration the legislation which is now pending in the House intended to increase the buck private's pay from \$50. to \$75. and the first class private's from \$54. to \$80. Neither does it take into consideration the Secretary's Committee which is inteneded to eliminate some of the chief causes for dissatisfaction with an Army career. Neither is there any evidence in the estimates

that the War Department intends to put itself out to make a career in the Army attractive to high type young men.

On the figures presented by the branch of the Armed Forces most interested in this legislation it appears to me that an extension of the draft is not proven necessary.

There is another element which should be considered most seriously. During the war years this country sacrificed a lot of potential scientists, engineers, Doctors, and other professional and skilled men. There is serious danger that we shall suffer unless we devote attention to replenishing our educational stockpile. You can't expect to take 18 year old boys out of high school subject them to the demoralizing life of an army in foreign lands and then after 18 months or two years have them return humbly to the class rooms.

We know from the daily papers what has happened to a lot of young men in Japan and Germany and elsewhere. It is not right to contemplate a continuation of this thing unless there is absolutely no other way. I am not convinced that that is the case.

We hear and read every day terrifying stories about the possibilities inherent in recent scientific discoveries. Yet, instead of emphasizing the need - the vital need - of educating young men in the sciences - we plead for their induction into the infantry.

It is very true that we have responsibilities to the peoples of the world which we cannot shirk. But, it is also true that we have responsibilities to Americans which we cannot shirk. Our country needs the benefit of the trained minds of as many young men as it can get.

I can understand the pressure which comes from the Selective Service System. I have read some of its beautiful literature which has come to my office.

But it is my belief that the Selective Service System was intended to be an administrative establishment, taking care of the mechanical^s ~~work~~ of the draft. I think that is the duty given to them by the Congress.

The Army's figures are, at least, subject to some doubt. It is readily apparent from the debate here in the House that there has been a great deal of conflict between various official statements.

However, taking the Army's figures at their best - and stacking them up with the admitted enlistments as of today, it is not shown that such continued voluntary enlistments will not provide full strength for the Army.

In addition, I am confident the increased pay will ~~inc~~ bring a boost in enlistments. I am confident also that Secretary Patterson's committee, if its recommendations are followed, will cause the elimination of many of the discouraging features in Army life.

One other thing - the elimination of Selective Service will put the Army on its mettle. An Army career can be ^{made} attractive to a lot of high type young men. If the Army does not have the draft it will have to make ~~xxxx~~ its service attractive to the right kind of men. The result will be a far superior army than one made up of ~~xxxxxxx~~ unenthusiastic conscripts.

It is my sincere belief that the vast majority of the people of the country want to get rid of military domination as quickly as possible. Military minds ~~are~~ will always be unwilling to admit there is no need of further conscription. ~~xxxx~~ Military men will always want bigger and bigger establishments. We are dedicated to the supremacy of the civilian over the military power. We have to provide a little leveling at this point.

I think the draft is disagreeable to most every civilian. I think it is fair to say it should not be continued unless it is clearly established that its continuance is absolutely necessary.

Accepting the Army's own figures for its estimated needs ~~and its~~ ~~administration~~ it is apparent that these figures can be met through volunteer enlistments - taking the present rate of enlistments as the guide.

For this reason I am not at all convinced that there is need for continuance of the Selective Service System.