

REPORT TO THE FACULTY ON MY TRIP

TO

WASHINGTON, D. C. Feb. 20-28th

Bernard A. McLaughlin, O.P.

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The purpose of this "Report" is to establish the fact that the Administration of the College is cognizant of and is prepared to take advantage of the opportunities offered in the following two programs, namely:

- 1 The Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- 2 The Army Specialized Training Reserve Program

In reference to the first of these let me say that Father Dore and Mr. Mara, Director of the Veterans Rehabilitation Program for Rhode Island have been in communication with each other since December working out a contract by which returning Veterans might be sent to the College for instruction. Certain difficulties arose in respect to the contract and the officials of the Veterans Administration in Washington. Since I was going to Washington with reference to the Army Specialized Training Program it was deemed advisable that I take up certain matters with a Mr. Harold V. Stirling, Director of Rehabilitation Service at the Veterans Administration there.

This being my first task I prepared for it by arranging through a telephone call with Col. Hugh Kerwin in Washington for a meeting with General Frank Hines, Director of the Veterans Administration and Major Clark, Assistant Director. They received me sympathetically and then introduced to Mr. Stirling.

I found Mr. Stirling most cooperative. He reviewed the position of the Veterans Program and in addition arranged for a meeting on the next day with Mr. A. L. Combes, Chief of Training Division, and Mr. C. K. Morse in charge of the Professional Division. From these three I received a detailed picture of the opportunities offered to the College by the

Veterans Program. These details I am turning over to Father Dore.

At this point let me say that the foundation for this Veterans Program originated in the following Congressional considerations:

- (1) Public Law No.2,73rd Congress, March 20,1933.
- (2) Public Law No.16,78th.Congress,1st.Session,which amends Public Law No.2 to read as follows:

"(f) Any person who served in the active military or naval forces on or after December 7,1941,and prior to the termination of hostilities in the present war shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation,subject to the provisions and limitations of Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a) ,as amended,part VII."

In relation to the interpretation of this law I found Mr.Stirling broad and sympathetic. However, Mr.Morse and particularly Mr.Combes wished to insist upon a rigid interpretation of the words "occupational objectives". While Mr.Stirling was favorable I could still see that Mr.Combes might insist on a very narrow contract.

Fortunately I read an editorial the next day in the New Times about the outstanding work being accomplished by the Veterans Rehabilitation Program at New York University. Hence when I arrived in New York I visited the following men who open/wide the splendid potential opportunities for the College contained in the Veterans Rehabilitation Program. These men are:

- (1) Dr.J.Richard Toven, Director of Veterans Counseling Service at New York University.
- (2) Mr.William Gullerist, Vocational Rehabilitation Officer for the State of New York.
- (3) Mr.Alfred B.Kelley, Assistant to the Vocational Officer.

From Dr. Toven I received the following:

- (1) Mimeograph copies of the plan setting forth the actual operation of the program at New York University. Particularly helpful will be the section entitled: "Suggested Fields of Study at New York University For War Veterans Based Upon Their Military or Naval Occupations".
- (2) His personal experiences with and reactions from the returned Veterans entering the University under the Program. In this regard it is interesting to note that out of the 75 men he has received at the University 73 have insisted on following Liberal Arts Courses.
- (3) Besides revealing other points of value in the program he will send me his article which he has sent to The Journal of Higher Education, Ohio State University, entitled: "Counseling the War Veteran Returning to College".

The other two men, Mr. Kelley and particularly, Mr. Gillerist, the legal advisor also for the group, contributed a note of finality in the drawing up of the contract. In fact Mr. Gillerist finally went to the files pulled out an accepted contract for a Liberal Arts College, which he had drawn up in proper legal form, made a copy of it and gave to me. He pointed out a clause in particular which will be of invaluable help in counteracting anything that arise in the mind of Mr. Combes in Washington.

My reasons for dwelling at such length on this matter of the Veterans Rehabilitation Program I hope can be justified from the following quotation from one of the brochures from New York University.

It says:

"During the Spring of 1942 we were confronted with a new problem, that of readmitting discharged war veterans. The post-war period for many veterans arrived months ago. Eventually, both in volume and complexity, this problem promises to outdo anything previously encountered. Even now it is estimated that more than 50,000 are being returned to civilian life each month."

Think of that vast reservoir of manpower that will be screened through the Veteran Rehabilitation Program. Furthermore it will be on the increase. With the splendid beginnings that have already been established between Father Dore and Mr. Mara we here at the College I believe have no reasons to be disturbed unnecessarily. From this one source alone I believe will we reap substantial benefits. in increased day student enrollment.

NOW FOR THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM*

As the bomb which burst a week ago Friday Night into the midst of now very respected and cherished members of the Army Specialized Training Program originated in the Office of the Secretary of War, I believed that I should go there first of all and seek for official information upon which we could rely for future action. Accordingly I called upon my old friend Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Head of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. When I arrived in his office ^{he} ~~it~~ was ⁱⁿ a mellow mood, in fact, ^{he} ~~in~~ was sitting before two artist having himself portrayed in clay for transcription ^{into} ~~in~~ bronze and hence to immortality.

He called Mr. Henry L Stimson, Secretary of War on the telephone and arranged that I should meet ^{him} the next afternoon.

I met Mr. Stimson in his Office in the Pentagon Building the next day. After the usual greetings he said to me I have waiting for you in the next room the two men upon whom I have to rely for my decisions, so come in and meet them for they can ~~explaining~~ to you fully the situation/ These men were:

Mr. Goldthwaidt A. Dorr, Special Assistant to Mr. Stimson, and
Dr. Douglas J. Brown, Assistant to Mr. Stimson.

Here are the facts as revealed to me by these two men who were speaking in the name of the Secretary of War.

- 1 The Army Specialized Training Program has not been liquidated.
- 2 The machinery ^{through} which the program operates at the various colleges has not been scrapped.
3. In order to give me the essential reason for the WITHDRAWING of the Trainees from the Program they gave me a detailed picture of how divisions etc in the Army are built up, beginning with the selection of the Generals, their aids, etc down to the combat units. During the explanation they laid great stress upon the "TIMING ELEMENT", i.e. that all units etc be in place at the right time and place. They dwelt at length upon the theoretical beauty of the building process which they believed was working out as planned, but the harrowing awakening came when they were about to call for the men which the draft boards were supposed to have had on hand. The numbers were lacking and according to them this fact alone determined the startling action by ^{which} the Trainees are to be withdrawn by April 1st. Our unit will be withdrawn about the middle of March according to Dr. Brown.

In this particular ^{corroborating} there are the words of the President in the New York Times of Sunday, Feb. 27th.:

"Recently the Army has had to withdraw the great majority of men who were receiving instruction in colleges. The present allocations of personnel to the armed forces cannot be further reduced, and there is a very real danger in our failure to supply trained replacements at the time and in the number required.

"Selective Service has not delivered the quantity of men who were expected. The shortage which commenced to develop last September reached a total of 200,000 on Dec. 31. This means that today we are still short approximately 200,000 trained men, although the actual shortage in the Army has been reduced to 150,000 .

"Today, as a result, we are forced to emasculate college courses, and trained divisions and other units.

The same sentiments were expressed by Dr. Brown when he said, "We believe this is the CRUCIAL year of the war but not the last year. This crucial situation has left us no other alternative than to prepare and deliver every combat unit we can."

Finally Mr. Dorr closed the interview on a note of hope. He said we are working on the expansion of another program which we hope will be helpful to the colleges, but as it is not yet completed, it is not yet for publication.

Seeking further enlightenment on this ^{fourth} ~~forth~~ point I visited the next day with General Walter Weible who now heads the program. My visit with him revealed the following:

1 First ² ~~of~~ told him of the high ratings which the College received in the October Achievement Tests, of the splendid work done by the Faculty, the Department of Physical Education, and by Major Smith and

the Officers associated with him. General Weible replied that such was a splendid record of accomplishments for the Army and he wants me to convey to each of you his deep personal appreciation for your cooperation.

2 As to the future of the program he felt hopeful. Here are the two significant points he revealed to me.

(1) He is working on the expansion of the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program and there is a FAVORABLE outlook that it will be put in operation.

(2) Its operation will furnish to the units of General Basic Training the same amount of men that are now in the colleges.

3. In regard to Pre-medical and Medical Programs he said their future has not yet been decided upon.

My objectives have been to furnish you with the best information I could acquired from the highest and official sources; to establish the facts that there still lies ahead real opportunities to keep all the facilities of the College in operation during these trying years for all educational institutions.

In regard to Moral Possibilities & vinted:

Captain Bruce Canegu
 Captain Womble.

Dr. Leonard Marbury.