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STATEMENT OF GERALD R. FORD, JR. ISSUED APRIL 5, 1951

From my analysis of the President's recent executive order I am convinced that it contains serious discriminatory provisions. Mr. Truman has directed that a substantial number of college students, both present and potential, be deferred from military service. Unfortunately the President's directive will force young men who cannot afford to go to college into the armed forces, in effect making this a poor man's army.

I am most sympathetic with the local draft boards that are sincerely attempting to operate under discriminatory and confusing executive orders from the White House and Selective Service Headquarters in Washington. I hope, however, that the local draft boards will not resign during this emergency period where their invaluable experience and ability will be most helpful. This over-all problem must be restudied by the President in view of new legislation which Congress is about to enact. In the meantime, I trust Mr. Truman will withdraw his seemingly discriminatory order pending such Congressional action.



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Mr. NELSON. In other words, if this restriction in this bill is good, an additional restriction forbidding the President to send troops to Europe would also be good; is that true?

Mr. KILDAY. No; I think this provision is probably of debatable validity without more. It should be followed up in the appropriation bill with a restriction against the use of the funds. We have that power.

Mr. NELSON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. KILDAY. I think it is a very difficult question, and nobody on the committee to my knowledge agrees with me.

Mr. COX. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDAY. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COX. The knowledge of the problems and all of the problems involved in the pending bill displayed by the gentleman now having the floor and by his chairman [Mr. VINSON], and their fair and forceful presentation of their arguments, begets confidence that should give a feeling of security and comfort to people interested in the security of the country in following them in the position they now take.

Mr. KILDAY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. COX. It is surprising to me that here, at a time when we virtually are living under the muzzle of Russian guns, we should be fiddling over the drafting of boys of 18 or the adoption of universal military training.

Mr. KILDAY. I thank the gentleman from Georgia. He embarrasses me, but I like it.

Mr. CRUMPACKER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDAY. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. CRUMPACKER. In connection with this rotation of marines, is it not a fact that a good share of the marines being sent as replacements are reservists who have been called up?

Mr. KILDAY. My Reserve outfit has been over in Korea for months, and I think that practically all of the original Marine Reserve organizations were committed.

I was amused with the gentleman from North Carolina's defense of the Marine Corps, because sitting next to me was a very distinguished combat Marine Corps major, of our professional staff, who wrote every word in this bill after we had agreed on the provisions which we wanted. So I take his information as a Marine Reservist, and I think all the committee does.

Mr. CRUMPACKER. The gentleman mentioned the flight to the Marines since this crisis began. They are not being trained or sent as replacements any faster than the Army draftees, are they?

Mr. KILDAY. I do not know whether it is any faster or not, but the numbers are greater.

Mr. CRUMPACKER. The point I am trying to get to is that the marines were able to send replacements sooner because they had an effective reserve, while the Army has had to train draftees some months before they could send them as replacements.

Mr. KILDAY. I will agree thoroughly with the gentleman on that. It is a fact that every phase of the naval-reserve program has been in far better condition than that of either the Army or the Air Force.

Let us go a little further: When the Pentagon bill came here I studied it quite thoroughly, and I found myself to be in violent disagreement with it. I disagreed on many things.

I have mentioned the fact of the intermingling of the two phases of the bill and the 18-year-old draft. Our committee has some information about universal military training. In 1945 the former Committee on Military Affairs held long and exhaustive hearings on the question of universal military training. Later a special committee appointed by the Speaker under Hon. Clifton Woodrum, formerly a Member of the House from Virginia and now deceased, held months of hearings and took volumes of testimony on the subject. Later the President appointed the commission headed by Dr. Carl T. Compton, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a number of others, including Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, who signed the report and repudiated it when she came before the committee. That committee reported favorably. Thereafter the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. TOWE] offered a bill and our committee held exhaustive hearings on universal military training and reported the Towe bill during the Eightieth Congress. So we felt we knew a little something about this subject and that we should inquire carefully into it. One thing to which I objected in this bill most strongly was the fact that it provided for no civilian commission. It placed the entire program under the control of the military. That was not in accordance with any proposal for universal military training that had ever been made in the past. None of the programs advocated by the American Legion or the Reserve Officers Association nor the Compton commission had ever contemplated that the trainees under UMT should be completely controlled by the military, but that there should be, as the Compton commission suggested, a commission composed of three civilians and two military men. So I was certainly opposed to a complete military control of the 18-year-old boys of the country.

Mr. BAILEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDAY. I yield.

Mr. BAILEY. Speaking of this commission, does the present legislation provide for that commission to report to the Congress or to the military authorities? That question has been raised.

Mr. KILDAY. It reports to the Congress. The bill requires a report as to the program and the number under training and the conditions and all about it.

Mr. BAILEY. Will the distinguished gentleman from Texas explain to the members of the committee how that commission is selected and other details concerning it?

Mr. KILDAY. It is appointed by the President with the confirmation of the Senate.

Mr. BAILEY. And it reports to the Congress?

Mr. KILDAY. Yes; the commission has to report to the Congress.

The bill provides that the Commission is intended to be a part-time commission. In other words it provides a \$50 per diem while members of the Commission are engaged in their duties. I am probably somewhat responsible for that. I took the position that the Commission should not be a full-time commission because I wanted men of the caliber of Dr. Karl T. Compton to serve on it, and I wanted men of the type who would not resign their civilian and private pursuits to become members of the Commission, but who would be sincerely interested, such as educators of the highest type, and perhaps religious leaders and others interested from a civilian standpoint in the military.

I understand now that some feel that is not a proper provision and that it should be a full-time commission. Compared to the major issues that we have here, in my opinion that is a very small question. I will accept either provision. It is a toss-up whether I was right or wrong on that question of the \$50 per diem. I think a commission appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate would necessarily be of a caliber so much higher than if they were appointed by an administrative agency. You would not have difficulties with such a commission as you may have experienced with civilian agencies where appointments were made without senatorial approval.

Mr. BAILEY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. KILDAY. Another thing which was proposed in the Pentagon bill was that there should be no separate corps, but that these boys would be integrated into the regular military forces of the United States. How anyone could believe that the American people would accept that is beyond me. Every program suggested has indicated that there should be a separate corps; that these boys should be segregated; that their morals should be protected; that they should not be subject to martial law; that they be retained as trainees and not members of the Armed Forces. The military heretofore had always agreed to that. At Camp Knox, Ky., they provided for a code of conduct. This bill provides for a code of conduct and relieves them from court martial.

So I found myself in disagreement with the Pentagon bill.

This bill takes care of that by creating a national security code. These boys will be segregated. They will be trained among themselves. Perhaps the most dangerous provisions of that bill were the two following, that for the next 3 years 75,000 annually should be chosen by an agency of government, and exempt from service in order that they might study the sciences, the healing arts, and the humanities. In other words, for 3 years 75,000 boys would be chosen by some agency of the Government—and the way our Government operates, that agency, whatever it was, would probably have originated with the present military program—so that after 6 or 7 years from now we would

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have found that every doctor in the United States was someone foreordained by the Government to practice medicine. I say that that is totally contrary to everything we have ever believed in the American system—that some agency of government is going to determine who our doctors and our scientists are going to be. But that was contained in the Pentagon bill.

There was another provision by which an unnamed number could be selected by the military to be assigned to colleges, to take ROTC training, and suggested that they be subsidized in so doing; in exchange for 2 years of service if educated without subsidy, and 3 years of training if educated with subsidy. It was indicated that under that provision approximately 175,000 would be selected.

So there you would have 225,000 Government and military chosen men going to your colleges, while the intake in colleges now is a little higher than normal; in normal times about 375,000 boys go to college each year. So that out of your 375,000, 225,000 of all of the college students in the United States would be chosen by the Government before they ever began their courses of study. I certainly could not accept that part of the proposal with respect to the hand-picked 75,000 men.

Within the last few days there has been set up a system of examinations to be given to persons in colleges, and on the basis of that examination they are going to be retained in college or they are going to be sent into the Armed Forces.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDAY. Yes; I yield briefly.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Did the committee take into consideration how the number of students to these various junior colleges and universities would be affected by this program? How many junior colleges would have to go out of business?

Mr. KILDAY. There is where my 18½ comes in. As the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BARDEN] said, the average age for admission to the freshman year in college is lower than the average for graduation from high school. Oddly enough, that is the fact. It runs something around 18 years in graduating from high school and it runs somewhere between 17 years and 1 month and 17 years and 4 months in the freshman year in college. That is a fact. Probably the boys who acquire education easier in the high school go into college younger. I suppose I have seen every college president of the United States within the last 90 days; some of them in committees, some of them by representatives and what not. All that I have talked to agree that at 18½ the average college student will be able to complete his sophomore year, and that will take care of your junior colleges completely.

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Could the program be worked so as to utilize the facilities, the buildings, the plants of the junior colleges, and of the universities so that they would not have to close them down?

Mr. KILDAY. Certainly, it can; in the plan to be submitted by this commission that can be done. Now, let me go ahead. I have a whole lot more important things. The gentleman is very well taken care of.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield for one question in that regard?

Mr. KILDAY. I yield.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Would the 24 months' service required be counted in on the training that is set up in this National Security Training Corps if it went to a college? Or must we depend upon a plan that may be submitted by this commission?

Mr. KILDAY. The 24 months in college would not be counted as military service.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. If the commission came in with a plan, would they be compelled to submit the plan for a 24 months' period for selective service as required in the first part of the act?

Mr. KILDAY. Yes; it is 26, not 24.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Then let us say 26.

Mr. KILDAY. Yes.

Mr. VINSON. If the gentleman will pardon an interruption. I think he has been misled by the statement. It is 6 months' training under the UMT program; that is all the plan would call for, a 6 months' training program.

Mr. KILDAY. I thought he was talking about the university now.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. KILDAY. I yield.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Did you make any study as to the length of time it would require to train men and prepare them for combat? You have provided in the bill that they should not go into combat for a period of 6 months.

Mr. KILDAY. That is right.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. Is the committee of the opinion that that is sufficient time in which to train them?

Mr. KILDAY. I never knew an Army commander who felt that a man ever had enough training. Every one of them was always training, training, training his men.

Mr. ROGERS of Colorado. But we do provide that at the conclusion of 6 months' training period they could be sent out of the United States.

Mr. KILDAY. We were sending them with less training than that, but we have increased it by 2 months as a margin of safety.

Now I want to go back to the question that was raised yesterday about the announcement made on yesterday or Sunday, at least, within the last few days, that men now in college may have the right to apply for an examination and on the basis of that examination it would be determined by the Selective Service System—the papers to be graded by somebody; I do not know whom—and if they received a score of 70, they would be deferred. It is, of course, contemplated, as the bill requires, that one deferred for that purpose must eventually do his service, and it could take him up until the time he was 35 years of age.

The objection has been made to this announced program that it prefers the

man capable of sending his boy to college over the one who is incapable of sending his boy to college. I agree thoroughly; that is a grave disparity; it is not a uniform service required in this emergency and during a shooting war, and it would permit one capable of going to college to get into college, take the examination, and stay out with the hope that within the time that he had to do his 6 months, as compared to the present 26 months, there would be no shooting; that if there was still shooting he would have to do his 26. But things are going to get so much better or so much worse that they are willing to gamble—and there are such people in certain parts of the country—he would delay his service, perhaps reduce it by 20 months if the war was over. That, of course, is a very valid objection to the program announced; I disagree with that program thoroughly and completely. And I have another disagreement with it which is equally fundamental, in my opinion, and it is the same objection I voiced in permitting an agency of Government to select the 75,000 to study the sciences, the healing arts, and the humanities. At the proper time I propose to offer an amendment substantially as follows—it will appear on page 46, line 13, immediately following the word "board":

Strike out the quotation marks and insert the following sentence: "Notwithstanding any provisions of this act, no person shall have his induction postponed or deferred by reason of his activity in study, research, or medical, dental, optometric, osteopathic, chiropractic, scientific, or other endeavors found to be necessary to the maintenance of the national health, safety, or interest as the result of, or on the basis of, any test, examination, selection system, or any other means conducted, sponsored, administered, or prepared by any agency or department of the Federal Government or any private institution, corporation, association, partnership, or individual employed by any agency or department of the Federal Government."

Mr. COX. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDAY. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. COX. The gentleman, in my judgment, strengthens his bill very materially by inserting that amendment in the bill; however, they should not have made necessary the offering of the amendment. This announcement should never have been made.

Mr. KILDAY. They should not have made necessary many things in the last 10 days.

Mr. COX. It should not have been made because in the future there might be justification for making some deferments.

Mr. KILDAY. Let me explain the amendment. The amendment leaves the law as it at present stands.

Mr. COX. That is all right.

Mr. KILDAY. The boy in college will be deferred on the basis of the subject he is taking just as it has been ever since 1948 act was adopted, just as it always has been under the 1940 act; and the law will remain exactly the same as it is. Our educational system will be free from selection or domination by an agency of the Federal Government. Whether a boy goes to college will depend on the ability of the parents to send him, as