

Whither Grad Students

The recent decision to abolish most graduate student deferments is just another move toward making the current selective service law completely unworkable and absurdly not in the best interests of the United States.

The National Security Council, chaired by the President, moved to abolish one of the inequities of the draft system—graduate deferments—but again showed the major flaw of the present administration and its policy—shortsightedness.

While removing the graduate deferment for the majority of students, the council placed a most burdensome restriction on our graduate schools. The new decision is expected to account for a loss in the next year amounting to ten times the loss this year to the draft call. The will reportedly be quite a drain on the graduate schools and future PLD's.

At the same time, all occupational deferments were suspended and placed at the discretion of the over 4,000 local draft boards. This, in effect gives each local the power to decide just who is essential to the community, a rather subjective decision.

While graduate deferments are inequitable, a complete abolition of this deferment will leave the rest of the onerous draft law untouched.

We see a great inequity arising from the last move. General Hersey decided after the rendering of the new draft law this past summer that students in junior college should be given occupational rather than 2-S deferments if their study did not lead to a baccalaureate degree.

If we may conjecture for a moment, and allowing for the caprice with which many locals have been known to act, we see a potential limit on the right of free speech.

In the past Hersey told the boards and the nation that he felt those who speak out against the draft of demonstrators should be drafted first. The new law has now given the local board more power to do just that.

The United States will surely realize a shortage of highly educated personnel in the next two years. How can they hope to keep in the running with the USSR, an admitted national goal, if those who do the running are recruited en masse to do the shooting.

President Johnson said that we could have both guns and butter. The guns are coming along fine, but we fear that much of the butter is turning to sour cream.