

Educated Citizens
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Greetings to you, citizens of the United States of America. I assume that this new policy has impacted every single person in this country, and that we do not all share a common opinion. Some people do not believe this draft is necessary or even beneficial. But this new policy is not the death sentence it is interpreted to be, and is necessary for nurturing a wise, educated public. How, you may ask? By intentionally placing the next generation into an environment which will teach them how to be wise, morally sound leaders.

The purpose of the policy is not to make you feel like cattle, herded into a cage. Instead, it is to be used to teach the common man to use his time well, and to do this he is placed into an environment where time is an ever-dwindling resource. It is not meant to be a burden that keeps him up at night, but a task that will help him make wise choices. It is not meant to be a dishonor but an honor of the highest degree - to give up a year of your life to serve and protect the lives of others.

From just one year of service, the young men of this country will have learned how to be organized, productive, and efficient workers who are able to remember and follow directions well. From just one year of service, these young men will have gained priceless leadership skills, which will aid them later in life as businessmen, farmers, or parents.

To the young men of this nation: I am aware you all have busy lives. You have school to finish, families to support, and hometowns you do not want to leave. Why would we ask you to leave your personal concerns and use up some of your years doing army work that can be done by volunteers, people who serve in the army as a profession? To place you in an environment that will help you become an informed, educated citizen.

Is this draft really necessary? After all, we already have enough men to fight the wars we are currently waging. You will say, there is already a volunteer military more than capable of protecting our country. But how long shall we have this volunteer military, I ask you? If the next generation is alienated from the important work and the necessary sacrifice needed to protect our country, our volunteer military will become smaller. Eventually, there won't be enough volunteers because no one will be able to see what we need a military for. After all, we are safe from all catastrophe.

But we are not safe, in fact, far from it! Therefore, we should not deceive ourselves on the nature of our security. Therefore, the public needs to be educated on the nature of the protection provided for them. What other way to do so than to place a reasonable percentage of the people in such a position as to be fully knowledgeable?

But why is it required? Because people do not like war. During past drafts, there were always people who actively avoided the draft. Some got permission from their doctors saying they were unable to serve during the draft, when they were in reality perfectly capable of doing so. This act may seem commendable; this minority managed to give the slip to an overbearing government. But these choices are unfair to the many people who complied with the draft, despite not wanting to serve in foreign countries. Making the nature of the draft 'mandatory' is the only way to get people to sign up.

But why would you choose to willingly leave home, family, and even school? During the last draft, college students weren't drafted until they graduated. But Dr. Davis commented that "There were not as many people in college at that time... the government chose not to interrupt the education of the people at that time." (S. Davis, personal communication, July 30, 2023). Today, we all have a choice to sacrifice time we would rather use ourselves for the good of the

entire nation, or slip out the loophole and stay at home. But being a citizen of the United States of America is a privilege, and those who understand this privilege also understand the cost of that privilege. Most of us have never needed to make such a sacrifice for their country, but also many of us are losing understanding of this great privilege.

And what of the young men now signing up for military service? Will they be safe? The only answer I can give is that I don't know. I conversed with Mark Vida, a gentleman eligible for the draft in the 1970s during the Vietnam war, and he shared his opinion with me. "People I knew went and served in Vietnam and were killed. I didn't want to be drafted, but if I had been, I would have been proud to serve my country." (M. Vida, personal communication, July 30, 2023). Whether your loved ones die on foreign soil or peacefully in old age, they will be respected by all who call this country home.

Many of you are likely concerned that your family members are given no choice in this matter, and that they are being forced into a position they do not want to be in. But each individual can choose how he serves, and for how long. Depending on his age, he may even have multiple choices about when to serve, being this year or the next, or at a later time.

I know that at the beginning of my speech, some of you did not believe this policy was necessary or even beneficial. I sincerely hope that many of you now see it is necessary for nurturing a wise, educated public. By intentionally placing the next generation into an environment which will teach them how to be wise, morally sound leaders, they will become educated, informed citizens.