Dear Senator Lehman:

This is in further response to your letter of 19 August relative to persons with a 1-A draft classification.

Two main problems are posed by your letter: (1) an increase in the number of 1-A registrants; and (2) the difficulty that some young men with a 1-A classification have in securing employment.

With respect to the possibility of the manpower pool growing, the Reserve Forces Act of 1955 contains a provision advocated by the Department of Defense which will serve to stabilize and control the pool. I am referring to the provision under which persons under 18\(\frac{1}{2}\) years of age may enlist in the Ready Reserve for a period of eight years, six months of which are to be spent on active duty for training. We have already initiated this program and are planning to enlist 95,000 young men in it by the end of this fiscal year. These are over and above requirements for the active forces. Assuming an enlistment of 200,000 into this program during fiscal year 1957 and 250,000 during each of the years 1958 and 1959, it is our estimate that the pool will be reasonably stabilized.

Those individuals having difficulty obtaining employment are probably younger men who are entering the labor force for the first time. It seems to me that such persons should be urged to take positive steps to discharge their military obligations as soon as possible rather than postponing them until a later period in life when they have embarked on a career and assumed marital and other responsibilities. Several choices are open to them for initiating such action:

1. They may enlist in any of the four Services for immediate active duty.

2. They may enlist in the Reserves for a period of six years during which they will serve on active duty for a period of two years.

3. They may volunteer for regular induction beginning as early as age 17. Such volunteers must be given priority over non-volunteers in filling draft quotas.

4. If under 18\(\frac{1}{2}\) years of age they may enlist in the Ready Reserve for six months of active duty for training followed by a 7\(\frac{1}{2}\) year period of service as a Reservist.
5. If under 18$\frac{1}{2}$ years of age they may enlist in the National Guard and serve therein until age 28 or, if during such service they perform active duty for training for not less than six months, until they have completed a total of eight years of satisfactory service. During this period they are not subject to induction.

With this range of choices before them it seems to me that there should be little reason for young men to undergo a long period of uncertainty awaiting a notice to report for induction.

The Department of Defense will be taking in the near future what I consider two constructive steps toward informing young men of their military obligation and the avenues available to them to discharge it. One will be the issuance of a guidance unit entitled "Your Life Plans and The Armed Forces" for use by all high schools. This unit will provide information concerning the individual's military service obligation, explain the many ways service obligations may be met, encourage each individual to make a self analysis and develop his own plan for fulfilling his military service obligation and provide detailed information about educational and career opportunities available in the services. High schools will be encouraged to develop study courses around this material.

We are also preparing a booklet for direct distribution to young men which will give them the same type of specific information. This will be available sometime before the end of this calendar year.

In numerous public speeches I have had the privilege to make, discussions with various groups, letters to individuals, etc., I repeatedly emphasize the salient point that each man between the ages of 18$\frac{1}{2}$ and 26, with few exceptions, has a military service obligation and that he should give serious consideration to its discharge at that point in life when it will least interrupt his career. It is my opinion and recommendation that the persons who have written to you be given the same type of advice.

I trust this will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Carter L. Burgess

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate