

## Congress Considers . . .

FOR AN INDICATION of the trend which compulsory military training may take, educators may look to two bills now before Congress.

On February 11, 1943, identical bills were placed before the House and Senate. Designated as the National Military Training Acts of 1943, they provide for one year of military or naval training for all male citizens upon reaching the age of 18, or within three years thereafter. On completion of training, the inductee would be enrolled as a reservist in the armed services for a period of four years. This act would be effective six months after the end of the war, or earlier, as Congress would prescribe.

Both of these bills—S. 701 introduced by Chan Gurney of South Dakota and H.R. 1806 by James W. Wadsworth of New York—are now in the Military Affairs Committee of their respective houses.

A somewhat more rigid program of military training is proposed in H.R. 3947 introduced by Andrew J. May of Kentucky on January 11, 1944, and subsequently referred to the House Military Affairs Committee. Major provision of this bill is induction into the Army or Navy for one year of every able-bodied male citizen and every alien residing in the United States, upon attaining the age of 17 or as soon as he has successfully completed the full course of credited high school, whichever is earlier. Afterward he would be enrolled as a reservist for eight years, subject to additional refresher training. Penalties for violation are set up in the bill, which would become effective upon termination of the Selective Training and Service Act.

Further suggestions for universal military training may grow out of the work of a twenty-three-member committee authorized by H.R. 465, which passed the House on March 28, 1944. Known as the House Committee on Postwar Military Policy, the group is composed of seven persons from the Committee on Military Affairs, seven from the Committee of Naval Affairs, and nine Representatives who are not members of either committee. The job of this group would be "to investigate all matters relating to the postwar military requirements of the United States; to gather information, plans, and suggestions. . . . to study the plans and suggestions. . . . and to report to the House from time to time during the present Congress the results of findings and conclusions reached." This committee is headed by Clifton A. Woodrum of Virginia.

Repeated statements in the press indicate that the Army and Navy have agreed upon a plan for universal conscription which will be presented to Congress in the near future. The existence of such a plan came to light during hearings before the House Committee on Postwar Military Policy, where it is said the sentiment is strong for compulsory military training.

### What YOU Think is important

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP will bring you word of new developments in militraining—to borrow a term coined by William Clark Trow, one of this month's authors—as they occur. When Congress begins active consideration of the bills having to do with universal conscription, you will want to write to your Congressmen.

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