Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Hauser, Richard A.: Files
Folder Title: Military Manpower Task Force –
Transcripts from General Turnage (5)
Box: OA 10254

To see more digitized collections visit: https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit: https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide

National Archives Catalogue: https://catalog.archives.gov/

Last Updated: 12/12/2023

Transcript of Proceedings

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY MANPOWER TASK FORCE

Washington, D. C.

November 30, 1981

Acme Reporting Company

Official Reports

[41] X Street May

Westington 2 2 20003

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY MANPOWER TASK FORCE

Old Executive Office Building Room 305 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C.

4:07 p.m. Monday, November 30, 1981

| 1 | MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE: |
|----|---|
| 2 | CASPAR W. WEINBERGER (Chairman) |
| 3 | Secretary of Defense |
| 4 | EDWIN MEESE, III Counselor to the President |
| 5 | WILLIAM SCHNEIDER |
| 6 | Associate Director Office of Management and Budget |
| 7 | MURRAY L. WEIDENBAUM Secretary, Council of Economic Advisers |
| 8 | JAMES NANCE |
| 9 | Acting Assistant to the President for NSA |
| 10 | MARTIN C. ANDERSON |
| 11 | Assistant to the President for Policy Development |
| 12 | JOHN O. MARSH |
| 13 | Secretary of the Army |
| 14 | JOHN F. LEHMAN Secretary of the Navy |
| 19 | TY McCOY |
| 16 | Assistant Secretary of the Air Force |
| 17 | GENERAL DAVID JONES Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff |
| 18 | |
| 19 | THOMAS K. TURNAGE Director, Selective Service System |
| 20 | OTHER PARTICIPANTS: |
| 21 | LARRY J. KORB |
| 22 | Assistant Secretary of Defense |
| 23 | HERBERT PUSCHECK Selective Service System |
| 24 | MR. GREENBERG Office of the Secretary of Defense |
| 40 | |

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We have three or four principal items today, and one of them is a presentation.

That is on the Reserve. I think that at the end does require a consideration of the possibility of extending the time for the future, not a retroactive thing, but for the future, and also we have the possibility of a presentation with respect to pre-trained manpower, and then we would have a consideration of the outline of the report to the President and the way in which we would want to present conclusions to him concerning registration.

David's letter to me urges that we stay in business long enough to address compensation questions, and I am not entirely sure what is meant by that because I thought we were on pretty good grounds on compensation at the moment with such items as educational benefits to be considered next year, but we can talk about that perhaps in a minute.

Meanwhile, if everybody is agreeable, Larry can present the Selected Reserve slides and presentation and so forth and so on.

DR. KORB: What we are going to do today is talk about the non-active duty manpower going from Selected Reserves to individual ready reserve to those who would be available to the Selective Service System, and so we will

start down selected, pre-trained, individual ready reserve, consider the draft report to the President on registration, and if we have time, we will talk about the outline of the interim report to the President.

Taking a look at Selected Reserve, let me point out a couple of things. When we went into the all-volunteer force, we were a little bit over 900,000 people because of the fact that we had a lot of people in there who were into avoiding going on two years of active duty. As we no longer had conscription, the numbers began to fall and we get to a low point below 800,000. As you can see, at the end of Fiscal '81, the very excellent recruiting retention year that the President spoke about which affected not only active duty but reserve forces, the numbers have come back up to where we have made up most of the loss that was suffered as we entered into the all-volunteer force.

(Showing slides) Now if you take a look for the next six months you see that the Services have come in for an increase of some 215,000 people. In the Selected Reserve these are the people who drill one weekend a month and spend a minimum of two weeks of active duty each year, most of the increase to come in the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

The reason for this increase is reassigning a lot of new missions to the Reserves. We have some 80 Reserve

components identified as Rapid Deployment Force.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Could you get that up just again for a second? There, you see how badly things fell off between '74 and '78 with only one exception--Air Force Reserve, and how it bounced back up again in "81, and yet there is quite a fair distance to go; 215,000 is not an insuperable number because we have got six years to do it and it is perfectly doable, but it is terribly important not to have any of the factors which gave rise to that, caused that big drop between '74 and '78.

DR. KORB: A lot of the factors that affected this also affected the active duty which you remember also experienced a bout of trouble.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Part of it is the general impression the country had of uniformed personnel, and the other was the pay.

Now as you can see, as I have pointed out before, the program strength is scheduled to increase, but so is the wartime requirement because we are asking the Reserve to take on more missions, and we are also increasing our commitment, so even though we program an increase of 215,000, the wartime requirement will go up and we will be closer to but not all the way to meeting what we want for our wartime requirement by Fiscal Year 1987, but the picture will be

appreciably better than it is today if we can meet the totals.

MR. MEESE: Is that wartime required for Selected Reserves or does that include your IRR?

DR. KORB: Just Selected Reserves; we also have a wartime requirement for active duty, Selected Reserve, and individual ready reserve which we will be getting to.

MR. MEESE: What is the anticipated plan then to meet the wartime requirement? Will that remain constant as you go forward and then you will increase your program strengths in subsequent years?

DR. KORB: That is correct. We intend to increase our program strength today from a little bit below 900,000 to over 1.1 million by Fiscal Year 1987.

MR. MEESE: How do you get to 1163?

DR. KORB: This is based upon the analysis of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as they anticipate the threat with the lethality of the weapons in the future, in 1987.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: From '80, something to 96 percent?

MR. MEESE: But what you are doing, you have programmed a calculated strength?

DR. KORB: That's right, because what we are looking at is the market as we see it based upon the way we can go.

Now sometimes if we have a good year, providing we can

reprogram the money, get authorization from the Congress, we can come closer and the requirement may go up or down, depending upon as the DIA comes in with new intelligence data, but this is basically where we are.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I can't feel the wartime requirement is absolutely accurate down to the last man, so if we got within the 96 percent of it, I think we would be in awfully good shape.

DR. KORB: A question arises of whether we can do it. In other words, can we grow the Reserve from where you are today to where you want to be in 1987, and remember, most of the increase is going to come in the Army Guard and Reserve because they are the largest components compared, for example, to the Navy Reserve, the Marine Corps. They are much larger, and we are optimistic because of the fact we do not have to do in any of the subsequent years any better than we did in Fiscal Year 1981 or Fiscal Year 1980. This was the increase, 38,000 and 33,000, and we are not programming a larger increase in the Army Guard and Reserve, higher than that number at any time during this particular period.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: This is important in the sense that a lot of people when we boast of the virtues of the all-volunteer system and the results say yes, but that is just because there is a big depression and everybody is joining to have a job.

economically driven. These are people who really want to be in these Reserve activities and don't them for economic reasons. We think a lot of the volunteer people don't join for economic reasons either, but this is—in other words, the '80, '81 bars are extremely encouraging, and while it isn't in any sense conclusive that we can get that much newer in the out years, it looks as if that is guite possible.

DR. KORB: One cautionary thing I think I have to point out is that we are also, you may remember, increasing active strengths and the population from which we draw is declining, and if we improve retention in the active forces it may hurt this because a lot of our people come from the active sources into the Reserve, so we are optimistic, but I think you ought to keep that caution in mind. We have to continue to provide funds for recruiting and advertisement and enlistment and retention centers for the Guard and Reserve as well as the active force.

That takes care of the Selected Reserve. Let's move into the next issue which is pre-trained manpower, and the question is do the military Services have enough manpower in trained and obligated manpower pools to meet their mobilization requirement?

We are stepping down. We had active Reserve,
Selected Reserve. Now we are moving down to the next. Now

I think it is important to very briefly point out where we get these people who come in for the mobilization pools.

We have individual ready reserves and individual National Guard. Reserves are primarily people who are in there who do not drill. We have got the stand-by reserve, and military retirees who we have given orders to report to active duty sort of as a backfill, and this is what they will do. They kill fill up active and Selected Reserve units.

Remember, as Secretary Marsh pointed out a couple of times, state law in many cases prevents us from breaking up Selected Reserve units to fill up the active, so we want them to fill up the active, Selected Reserve units, and the very important point, to replace the battlefield casualties, so this is where they are coming from, individual ready reserve, stand-by reserve, and military retirees.

MR. MEESE: What is the stand-by reserve?

DR. KORB: These are people who were in the ready reserve who no longer want to be affiliated and go into the stand-by reserve. They don't get pay, but they are able to be called up. It is an S-l type of category.

MR. MEESE: It is different than the IRR?

DR. KORB: Yes. It is different from the individual ready reserves. These are people who have a military service obligation that they didn't fulfill by going on active duty. These are people who fulfill their

obligation, but say look, I don't want to drill every weekend but I will go into the stand-by reserve and come back if there is an emergency. They don't have to. Many times you incur this when you join up. This you do on a volunteer basis.

MR. MEESE: It is a higher level of readiness basically by one, is that it?

DR. KORB: Some of the people in the stand-by reserve do come on to training.

MR. GREENBERG: One of the more popular groups in the stand-by reserve would be members of Congress who still want to maintain the reserve affiliation but obviously are in a group that would be the last to be called.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Under the new statutes.

MR. GREENBERG: So the stand-by reserve is quite slim now. There was an effort to move as mamy people from the stand-by reserve to the IRR as possible. What remains are people who would have certainly a lesser obligation to come in.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: The degree of their training, in answer to Mr. Meese's questions, depends on how frequently they take a training which is volunteer for them as opposed to obligated for others.

DR. KORB: That is correct, and it also happens with the individual ready reserve. Up until this year, it

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

23

24

25

was only on a volunteer basis. Congress has now given us permission to order the people back.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Right.

DR. KORB: Okay. Now here is the individual ready reserves, which is our main problem. We are going to be talking primarily about this. The source is those who don't complete their six year obligation and those who agree--when a person joins the Service, they incur a six year obligation. If they don't serve all of it on active duty, they are then put into the individual ready reserves if they don't join the Selected Reserve or Guard. Those who come in, the losses, those who complete MSO, if you leave the IRR to go back on active duty, and in some we just looked at it. administratively. We will talk about that in a second.

Now the problem is AVF with longer active service, we now have people serving on active duty for the initial obligations, about 3,8 years, and so we don't have as much turnover, and we also reduce the size of the active force, so therefore, the IRR goes down, and we will show you the extent to which it went down.

When we ended conscription, the individual ready reserve, because of the fact that conscripts served only for two years, you had a higher turnover, was a little over a million. This fell, and down to below 200,000. This is for the Army. We are going to focus primarily on the Army

because it is primarily an Army problem, and it has come back up a little bit now to 220,000 as particularly the Army has taken certain administrative actions to clean up their list, and to make sure that people go into the individual

. 1

ready reserve.

Now the question is how many do we have and how many do we need? The requirements are active forces at wartime strength; we just talked about Selected Reserve the wartime requirements; the casualty requirements. This tells you how many you need. This is your supply—active, Selected Reserve, new volunteers, and inductees after their training, and your manpower pools. We are focusing on IRR, stand—by reserve, and retirees. Now throughout the rest of this discussion, we are focusing—this is the scenario, Warsaw Pact attack on NATO, conventional weapons, little warning time. This is the most demanding scenario, and this is the requirements for it, and here is the supply.

Okay. This is the picture. You may remember at our last meeting when we were discussing registration we put this up and said okay, here is a requirement. Now notice again the wartime requirement is going up over the next seven years as we increase our commitments. The establishment of the Rapid Deployment Forces as a separate command, for example, and here is your active and Selected Reserve supply. That is going up. Remember we spoke about the increase in

the active and Selected Reserve. Volunteers and inductees for M plus 120 will remain basically the same because of the fact that you must train a person for at least 12 weeks before you send them into combat and have them available from the manpower pools. We expect a raise from about 200,000 in '80 to a little bit over 400,000, basically a doubling.

Now you have a shortfall now of about a quarter of a million. It will go down to a little bit over 100,000 if this projected increase comes true. Now again we emphasized the last time this is not how many there are in there. We are adjusting that number. We basically figure we only get 75 percent of them. In other words, there are more people than this, but that has been adjusted to say that, and this is what the Services tell us they expect to get in their manpower pools, about 75 percent of the people.

Now we have got a shortfall, and what I would like to propose, what was proposed to the working group that was in your papers are a couple of options to deal with the situation.

The first option basically is to change the MSO possibly up to eight years, make it mandatory for all the Services. If you went to eight years, for example, you would add 144,000 to the Army. It would take you a while to see those improvements because you couldn't start it until this

year, legislation was sent over and people who enlisted after this. We don't know the effect on recruiting. It could increase recruiting costs. In a young person, say you have got an eight year obligation, we might have to increase bonuses. You might turn off certain people, and it could require an adjustment back if you found out it caused trouble. There are some risks if you do this, but the payoffs are certain. If you do this, you can add almost 150,000 to the Army which has the biggest problem. It would require legislation, and we could let the period be set by the Secretary of Defense.

If you got legislation to permit you to do it and you found out you had problems, the Secretary of Defense could change the obligation.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Larry, you have got the fact that it might increase recruiting costs.

Do we have any studies that indicate whether the longer requirement would discourage a significant number of people who are now enlisting?

DR. KORB: Based on the best evidence we have, there would be very little impact. That is the best evidence we have right now.

However, it has not been tried for an extended period.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: People tend to view the

work.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: You shouldn't lose anybody in the sense that you ought to know that certain numbers can't be taken because their physical condition has deteriorated. Certain people have moved out of the country or whatever, but there are some people who are indeed lost, and to the extent that you can reduce this, you are absolutely right. That helps enormously, but you are not going to get 25 percent of them. That's the only problem. You will get some.

DR. KORB: You do notice, remember back, Marty, one of the other charts where we showed the increase, a lot had been due to the fact that it has taken a lot of administrative actions to get them.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Some of them are former air traffic controllers. There are a whole raft of classifications that means you can't use them all, but one way or another we can do better.

DR. KORB: Now before we get to the second thing,

I think it is important to keep in mind that if you take a

look at our allies, what their military service obligations

are forpeople who either volunteer or were conscripted, the

average age of our allies is higher than ours. Ours is

about 25.5. In other words, a person comes in roughly about

19 and has an obligation until they are a little bit over 25,

and some of our NATO, particularly our NATO allies, they incur much longer obligations, so we would not be doing anything that would be much different from our allies if we extended it.

For example, you see a lot of these countries is

45. The lowest is in Germany where it is 32. If we put it
up by two years we would still be at about 27.

The second option that we have is now to, now to offer as a proposal, is to give the obligation to those who re-enlist. Now this would be applied to those who re-enlist in active and Selected Reserve because right now if you re-enlist and then you decide not to make it a career, you have no more obligation than the individual ready reserve because re-enlists, once you passed six year military service obligation--now the proposal that was put before the working group and sent up to you would make it optional by Service and skill. There would be no change in the law, and the yield could be up to 60,000 for the Army.

If the Task Force adopts this you can experiment with this to evaluate the impact on re-enlistments which let me emphasize is optional by Service, and still the Army having the biggest problem, we would expect that they would be the ones who would want to use this the most.

The third option would be to offer a bonus for those who agree to extend in the individual ready reserves.

We did have inFiscal '81 a \$600.00 bonus for those who agreed to extend in the manpower pool, and we are proposing to make it up to \$900.00 or about \$300.00 a year, make it optional by the Service. If they had the problem, and if this proposal were adopted, you could get about 70,000 more people in the Army, IRR, at a cost of about \$32 million a year.

Now if you take a look at those three proposals, this is what you are talking about. Option one, we extended the military service obligation, it can't do you any good for quite a few years because you couldn't start it until you changed the law.

Option two where you have the, you put in IRR obligation on those who re-enlist would take a couple of years before you would start seeing the results of that, and then Option No. 3 where you pay the bonus, you would have some immediate payouts which we estimate this way.

. Now if all of those three steps were adopted and they all achieved their desired results, what you would see by the close of the decade, you would begin to see this gap close.

Now these are not completely administrative.

There would be some duplication, but basically remember the shortfall was about 100,000. You begin to see a closeage as you go out.

3

4

5

6

7

8 9

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: All right. Are there questions? Yes, Marty?

MR. ANDERSON: Is there any possibility of recruiting people into the IRR who have had previous military service, left, and they want to come back in? Is there any independent way of doing that?

DR. KORB: Yes, you can do that.

MR. ANDERSON: Is that a viable option?

DR. KORB: That would be included among these. Normally what you would probably do is offer them a bonus. Normally what happens when a person--it is active, Selected Reserve, individual ready reserve, and you could offer this person a bonus that would be included in here. We do have a program that is already in our budget, okay, of taking people to enlist directly into the IRR. We are trying it out on an experimental program. The Army will start it in Fiscal '83.

MR. MEESE: What about providing an educational incentive to either go from active or Selected Reserve in the IRR with some kind of an educational incentive, longterm loan or GI Bill type of this?

DR. KORB: This is being considered in our educational package.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We believe that the dollars the Congress has now wited in the second time has largely

eliminated the really shamefully low rate that they had in effect and the failure to consider inflation over all those years, so we think that is reasonably well caught up now.

The next thing that would be the most helpful and the most equity is educational benefits. That is the thing that apparently people in the Service are most interested in, and interestingly enough to anyone who is familiar with the old GI Bill, the thing that is of most interest now are educational benefits for dependents, and that has a much longer payout period, of course, so these are things that we will be looking at from a compensation point of view and can do it in the context of this commission, or in the normal way in which we do it or any one of a number of ways.

Yes, sir?

SECRETARY MARSH: May I speak to that for a moment?

I have got a chart here, two charts I would like to show you.

About two weeks ago I was in Wyoming and attended a briefing of the Wyoming National Guard, and three years ago the Wyoming National Guard started an educational program. They are in their third year, and the State of Wyoming will pay half of the tuition, one half of the tuition of any youngster who attends a college in Wyoming who joins the Wyoming National Guard. If they are from Texas or Montana, if they join the Wyoming National Guard they can still go and get half their tuition paid.

The Wyoming National Guard has only about 2600 people, and it has only 1600 people in the Army National Guard, so you see these figures, you see this shows in this period of time how many applicants we had—1,780 applications in the program, 1,065 the Army, 700 for the Air Guard, and then the other statistics show you how many of their new recruits of the people taking the educational benefits are in what semester.

They have gotten 473 recruits which represents

64 percent of their total. Now what amazes us is the cost.

I said they pay half the tuition. Those are the colleges in Wyoming. Half the tuition is \$80.00 a semester in the State of Wyoming. This costs the State of Wyoming about \$131,000.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: You just got OMB with that one!

MR. SCHNEIDER: Nineteen twenty-six prices!

SECRETARY MARSH: If somebody tells you they will pay half the college tuition, that sounds like a whole lot.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Every survey we had, and we are doing one very large one as you know, has come out so far with the idea that there is a tremendous interest in educational benefits of all kinds, and particularly for dependents.

MR. MEESE: The interesting thing is the IRR, those are the kind of people you like to have because it shows a

_

4 5

certain dedication to improve their own situation. They are probably in the right age group you would need for filler personnel.

SECRETARY MARSH: They would raise the quality of your force.

DR. KORB: In the Selected Reserve we already have a program where the person can join the Selected Reserve and sort of on the come get his college loan forgiven for Reserve and National Guard, and we just started that. That appears to be a very successful program perfectly tailored to the college person who can do his two weeks training when school is not in session, and we are actively working with several states on this particular program.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: All right. Have we got one that will help us decide about these options? Do you have a chart that will help us decide?

DR. KORB: Basically this is what we are talking about. If you extended MSO, okay, for six to eight years for the Army, you will begin to get this many more people—70,000 in '89. If you take the given IRR obligation to those who re-enlist, make it optional by Service, we estimate it will build up to a steady state of about 60,000, and the bonus we estimate will have immediate payoffs. Based on our '81 experience, that will build up along those lines.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Each one of these, you are not

changing the obligation of anybody. 1 2 DR. KORB: You change the obligation here. 3 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: It is prospective. DR. KORB: Right. 4 5 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We are not changing the 6 obligation of anybody now in this, in any category. 7 DR. KORB: No. 8 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: That is important I think. 9 DR. KORB: This would require legislation. would require legislation to get the money, and this the 10 Service Secretaries could do by themselves. 11 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: What do you have about the 12 bonus thing? Do you have any feelings about that? 13 MR. SCHNEIDER: It looks like it would be a good 14 program from what one can tell if that small amount of money 15 16 would have that great an effect. It seems to me like a 17 viable option. DR. KORB: We have a \$600.00 bonus this year, and 18 we are talking about a \$900.00 bonus, and the yield, we are 19 not estimating at least the beginning to be tremendous. 20 would take a while to get the program going. 21 MR. SCHNEIDER: It is hard to believe that the 22 300 bucks a year, that that would be a motivator to get people 23 to do it. 24

Acme Reporting Company

25

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: You are dealing with a special

group of people here who already have demonstrated some high degree of motivation.

MR. SCHNEIDER: It would be a good scheme.

MR. MEESE: And barring a wartime situation, there is almost nothing required other than turning in a change of address form every year.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: The assumption pretty
basically is among these people I think that the length of
time of their obligation in quotes is not all that important
because if anything happened, everybody would be put under
a much greater obligation, so this is not a very large factor,
and that I think is why the \$300.00 is felt to have quite
a multiplier effect here.

MR. MEESE: Would there be any value to increasing the things that an IRR member ought to do during his year to have more importance attached to it; in other words, that it is not an onerous thing but also must be regarded by most of these members as not very important either if they don't have to do anything?

I am just wondering whether there would be any value to having them do some things during that period of time so they at least know they are members.

DR. KORB: Up to now we have been in a strange situation. The law allows us to call IRR people back for refresher training, but the Congress in a report about five

years ago when the Service went and called, we got a lot of letters from people who didn't know they were in the IRR and they told us don't do it anymore.

Except for volunteer, they have taken that prohibition away this year and we are now allowed to do it. I think that is the key point. We just don't want bodies. We want people who know what they are doing. That is really the thing, and so it is not just a question of growing. It is to make sure it can do what you want it to do.

MR. MEESE: That is really I guess the question
I am raising, whether there shouldn't be at least something
a couple of times a year, send them a copy of Soldiers
Magazine or something, let them know that they still belong.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: First of all, you have got a skill problem. After so long these people have to have some kind of training or they lose it.

The second, thing is that based on the experience before, in all candor, the program was administrated very poorly and at one time we called them in every three years for two weeks in the summer and you got them without uniforms or one that didn't fit or they are overweight or misplaced as far as skill was concerned, and it was not in good shape as it is now.

We have got fewer numbers, but I think that they

quy that is joining it knows what he is doing and has greater

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

potential, but I don't think you are going to get that for the dollars you are speaking of here.

MR. MEESE: That is what I am wondering, whether it wouldn't be a worthwhile investment to spend more.

MR. McCOY: It might be worth more to have them show up once a year like almost a welfare requirement where people have to do it twice a year, show to get Medicaid, to get recertified.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: What would be your quess as to the estimation of people who actually are aware of the implications of what their IRR membership is?

SECRETARY MARSH: I think most of them know that they are probably in it because they get correspondence. that right?

MR. GREENBERG: Yes.

SECRETARY MARSH: Annually they get some correspondence, but they are probably not aware of how long they are going to be in there. They probably don't know when they get out.

MR. GREENBERG: In fact, the Navy is doing a very effective job in communicating its IRR, and that is helping them keep the address lists current because they can tell, the mail that comes back, and they can find out who they are losing and try to attract more people.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: One of the things we have found

is that in itself loses people--gee, am I still in this?

Let me out!

MR. MEESE: But on the other hand, if you expect those folks to come at a time of emergency, you don't want to trap them unwarily because then you are going to get the letters to Congressmen, the failures to report, and you really can't do it that way.

DR. KORB: I think that is a key point. We are not just looking for bodies. We are going to need these people, and remember the shortages here because if you bring in new people, no matter how you get them, you can't send them into battle right away, and you are going to have to get people you want, make sure they have the skills that you need.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Other discussion on these three options? Any of them, or all three of them?

SECRETARY MARSH: Some could be combined.

MR. MEESE: You could combine all this.

DR. KORB: We need all three to close the gap.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: And you don't get the numbers any too soon even at that. Two of them, one and three, require legislation. Two could be done administratively.

MR. ANDERSON: Are the numbers additive?

DR. KORB: Not quite, because you have got a certain amount of--

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: You are going over 200,000 in '89, and somewhere in that range is what you would get.

DR. KORB: It is not a big, significant thing.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Well, let's put that then temporarily aside and go on with the rest of it.

DR. KORB: Let's move on to the question of registration. I won't go over the report. We have circulated it and we have provided it, basically the options were boiled down to four--to continue the registrations as we have it now, to move toward a post-mobilization registration after, depending on how much warning you have. It would depend on how much time you have to do it; and accelerated post-mobilization registration or pre-mobilization registration where if in fact the President decided that the relations were deteriorating, he could order registration, so you basically have a continuum where you are now to after mobilization to accelerated post-mobilization and pre-mobilization.

Here are the factors that this group and the President must evaluate as you make your decision. First of all, we have the impact on the Department of Defense, how quickly will we get the people? The Army's training base, how quickly can we train them? Do we want to leave the training base with less than optimum utilization when we are going to need the people. The wartime volunteer assumptions,

which you may remember from our last discussion, vary from something like 16,000 to 200,000 in the event of a national emergency, the impact on manpower availability until M plus 100 which would be very slight, and that is why we need the Selected Reserve and individual ready reserve, and after M plus a hundred when you begin to get the conscripts eligible to go into battle, and of course, the risk of delay, that if you don't have registration in-tact and you have an emergency, you have a bolt out of the blue attack and your system doesn't work like you think it would because you have never been able to test it under those conditions, what risks are you taking, so that is the first group of factors you want to consider.

SECRETARY WEIDENBAUM: Are you going to be using the same set of numbers that you used at the preceding meeting?

The reason I æk was you know a few of us asked some questions about them and you were kind enough to provide some answers.

DR. KORB: That's right.

SECRETARY WEIDENBAUM: Are those answers going to be, have they been cranked into the analysis or is that the original numbers?

DR. KORB: You mean in terms of how long will it take? Okay. We tried the best that we could to say how it varies, andwe have one that says it would be about 58 days to a minimum of around 30 to 36 days, and we can't be sure.

The analysts disagree on exactly how much time would be required, and basically we can tell you the assumptions on which those are based.

I don't know if you were at the last meeting.

Marty passed out some things we put in, and Ed corresponded with the Postmaster General.

SECRETARY WEIDENBAUM: I have in mind specifically, Larry, a discussion about using the Vietnam base for the volunteers.

DR. KORB: That is a different question now. I thought you were talking about the delivery times. Okay.

SECRETARY WEIDENBAUM: The application makes it quite clear the results were very sensitive to which of those years you used and you all used, well, representation, representativeness I question.

MR. KORB: What we did was basically to provide you with a range of the thing from a low to the high, and there is a risk. We just don't know. It would depend upon the nature of the attack, all kinds of assumptions that you have to make.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I think what we have to do here is put in a range all the way through. There is not agreement that it takes, that registration saves us 52 days. Some people think it would. Some people think it is 36 or something. I think we would have to put it in that there is

general agreement that registration if continued would save between 36 and 52 days or something like that. People who feel 52 think so and so the people who pick 36 think so, and at least it is within this range.

We are all agreed on volunteer assumptions. You have got a lot of different things here. If there were a Pearl Harbor situation, you would probably get a lot more than if there was a situation in which we were suddenly advised it was necessary to invade Nicaragua, so you are again going to have to pick up some kind of differences, and the best assumptions that we can get even though they involved a range, I think that is what we ought to give the President.

Does anybody have any question?

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: There is another factor that perhaps should have been included in the response to you, Murray, when we sent that information.

There is a direct correlation between the level of volunteers and the level of the draft that is going on at the time. For example, during those same years when the draftees were going to a higher level, from '65 they went, we had 103,000 drafted. You had 98,000 who joined, and in '66 you had 343,000 drafted, and it jumped to 166,000 volunteers, so that correlation is very clear, and there is the rest of it if you would like to see it.

1 Is that for volunteers for active MR. MEESE: 2 duty? That is for war for active duty. 3 DIRECTOR TURNAGE: 4 These are guys who volunteered for MR. MEESE: 5 the Navy and Air Force that wouldn't go in the Army. 6 DIRECTOR TURNAGE: That is what it amounts to. 7 MR. ANDERSON: It is not a question that you are 8 going to use past experience of any kind relative to 9 projecting into the future. It might be more relevant to look 10 at the experience of World War II and the Korean War. 11 Vietnam War was a very special, very unpopular kind of war. 12 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Yes. There is no question. 13 You can't rely only on what happened during that time, but 14 even given those facts, that degree of wartime volunteers 15 is pretty impressive because it was a very unpopular war, 16 and the draft was very unpopular, too. 17 Now Ed suggests that maybe the volunteers were 18 entirely to give the person volunteering a higher degree of 19 choice. Maybe that was part of it. I don't really know, but 20 I can't understand why anybody would prefer anything to the 21 Army myself! 22 I agree with you, but there is also MR. MEESE: 23 115,000 misguided souls!

Acme Reporting Company

If you look back at the time President Carter opened up

24

25

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: It is a very sensitive thing.

registration again and started in July of '80, you had an increase in volunteers in the active service just because of registration, not because of the draft.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: There is a correlation I think without anyquestion, and there is also a factor of what are the alternatives to volunteering, and so all of those are things we have to again try to get ranges and things that affect the assumptions before the President. All right.

DR. KORB: So you have to sort of look at the national security aspect of it, and you have also got to take a look as we tried in the paper to talk about the domestic impact of the acceptance on the part of the general population, and we included the Harris poll. Marty passed out another poll at the last meeting. The questions of equity to do it in peacetime, you can be more sure you have got most of the people whereas you can do this in a hurried manner, you might not get all of the people.

The question of compliance, if you have registration, what do you do with the 10 percent who don't register, and of course, the reactions of Congress. As we have pointed out in the paper, a lot of people in Congress who support a strong national defense also are in favor of conscription.

We have included letters from them. There is another group of letters from people who have also written to the President

saying they want him to discontinue it. Most of those would not be classifed as strong supporters, but you have got kind of a couple of different factions in Congress, and then finally, of course, you have the international reaction, what kind of signal would it send to the Soviet Union? What kind of signal would it send to our allies?

Those are the factors that we feel that the group ought to consider as it deliberates and makes its recommendation to the President.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We have had a draft report that has been circulated, and there have been some comments on that, and some things received that are being ground into the second draft, and what I think would be most profitable to do now would be perhaps since this is I guess the major question is to consider the form in which this should go to the President, and there are a number of different ways.

There are a number of different options.

. There are four options on what we could do. You don't have any other slides?

DR. KORB: No, I do not.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Does anybody else have any slides they want to show? If not, there are four options generally, and I think those four options summarize pretty clearly what the different possibilities are now, and one of the ways we could send it to the President would be to list

briefly the background and the factors that are involved in each of these, and the arguments that are made by those who feel that Option A should be the one recommendation and B, C and D.

We could then stop there. We could also present to the President the raw vote so to speak among the members of the commission. We could have individual reports to the President, or we could list the people who have voted for, people who voted against various options.

The thing that we ought to think about I think is what would be most helpful to him, and in the final analysis, of course, it is completely a Presidential decision, so that I think is the way, some of the things we want to think about now.

We do have a desire to summarize and set forth
the various options and the arguments and the points to be
made acconveniently as, as briefly and as usefully as possible
for the President, and we also have in this report some
various Congressional letters indicating the potential
Congressional reaction. I don't know how we document what
the allied or the enemy reaction might be, but I suppose we
could make some kind of estimates on that. It may be that
CIA in a declassified way could help us with some of those.
I don't really know, but one way or another these would be
things we want to think about getting into the report, and

the form of the report itself. We would be open to dis-1 2 cussion now. I would sure recommend we put this MR. NANCE: 3 in one report, not a group, and give him options. 4 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: That is physically much 5 6 easier for him. MR. SCHNEIDER: I think the model of the way we 7 present decision papers in the NSC environment, suggesting 8 a single report with a limited number of well-explained 9 options, is probably the best way for the President to come 10 to grips with the problem with the least demand on his time. 11 SECRETARY LEHMAN: I think the idea of listing the 12 votes is a good idea, too, or just say the Army favors this. 13 SECRETARY MARSH: It is frequently that way and 14 those papers would probably go in that way anyway, wouldn't it? 15 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Anybody have any comments 16 or different views? 17 GENERAL JONES: I agree with that. I would like 18 to cast five votes! 19 SECRETARY MARSH: In that regard, Mr. Chairman, I 20 think that General Meyers spoke to me last week and 21 indicated that if possible he for one on behalf, as a member 22

Acme Reporting Company

of the Joint Chiefs, would like to express a view or have

an opportunity to express it to you or to the commission,

and maybe some of the other members of the Joint Chiefs.

23

24

25

GENERAL JONES: We would like to request before a decision is made that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have an opportunity to let's say write the President with our strong views on why it should be retained.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Should that be part of the report?

MR. MEESE: How about include that as an appendix of the report, a verbatim copy of your letter?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: In the interest of getting one document to the President, that might be the best way to handle it, but surely the views of the Joint Chiefs are of great importance to be before the President.

GENERAL JONES: We will write a letter to you asking it be forwarded to the President. It is up to you to figure out how to do it. You can put it in the report or whatever.

MR. MEESE: Does everybody agree the Joint Chiefs of Staff be unanimous in their views?

GENERAL JONES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: So there will be a Joint
Chief viewpoint then, and it will be expressed by General
Jones and makethe comment that they are free to vote five
times! That report would be an appendix or be incorporated
in the body or one way or another, the views of the Joint
Chiefs as such would be before the President.

MR. MEESE: Could I ask, is there anybody -- I have

tried to find it in the report, but I am not sure I have-is there anything that talks about the cost of the peacetime
registration? What was the annual cost?

DR. KORB: Four million dollars for registration, and if you discontinue it because of the law, you would lose another \$4 million because Selective Service would be limited to a million dollars a month, so you basically, if you went into it, you would save \$8 million unless, of course, you went back to change the law and said we would want Selective Service to continue with the local Board.

MR. MEESE: What does Selective Service cost now total?

million to do the job we have to do. However, there are a couple of things that still haven't been done, Ed, that have to be done and starting in '83 if we are going to have a viable program. However, we are the cheapest thing in town.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Least expensive is the proper way to put it.

MR. MEESE: I guess the real question that we need to, one that we need to address is the whole issue of prosecution and enforcement or I should put it the other way, enforcement and prosecution.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: May I please make a couple of comments with regard to that?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Yes, sir.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: Registration has never been an issue. Never. As a matter of fact, it has been so successful it is embarrassing. It leads you to believe the figures we get from the Census are poor because year after year we go over 100 percent of registration, and what I have here, I just happen to have a report of that over the last few years.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: It so happens I brought my organ with me!

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: And if you will note from 50 on through for which we have reflective records here, that gives us the percent of compliance.

What happened, however, if you will recall, in July, what happened is that you know this is based on estimates only from the Census figures that are available to us, and then we follow through from that.

MR. MEESE: What is our current situation?

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: The current situation is that in July of 1980 when we had the first two cohorts, that is, the '60 and '61 people, born in '60 and '61 registered, we ended up with two figures over 90 percent. The figure that we are doing now for the next figure that we had when they were registered in January of 1981 ran around 87 percent, and where we are right now for the current cohort which is

(:

the first time that we have had the continous registration since '73 and '74, we are running about 77 percent.

However, if you look at that figure alone, that tells one story, but come 31 December, the number of eligibles for that stops, but the number who continue to, historically who have been late continue to register, indicates that we are on the same track that the data shows for '73 and '74, and will go something over 90 percent, so while they are slow, recall that we have beem at a period where there has been no real enticement, no real program to cause them to be concerned about it, and I have no concern that if the President were to announce this is in the national interest to do this, I think we would have considerable trouble trying to comply.

MR. MEESE: Are these numbers perhaps 1980, '81, '82, '83 on the second page--

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: That is year of birth.

MR. MEESE: Oh, year of birth; I see.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: What is the figure that is being battered around in the various columns about 800,000 people?

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: What happened, sir, is that based on the four cohorts that we had registered up at this time, that the cumulative figure or estimate of those who have failed to register, we have about six and a half million

1 in the computer bank. We have got about 800,000 who haven't 2 registered according to our best guess. 3 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Percentage? DIRECTOR TURNAGE: Overall, 90 percent. 4 5 MR. PUSCHECK: Pretty much a figure that you 6 just mentioned, over 90 percent in the first two, 87 and 7 about 77 now; for cumulative I would say 88 to 90 percent. 8 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: But the 800,000 is--9 MR.PUSCHECK: Two million each, that would be 8 million; 10 percent of that is 800,000. 10 11 MR. MEASE: So we do have some cases where 12 neighbors have turned these kids in, say they didn't like them. How many cases do we have pending for investigation and 13 14 prosecution now? DIRECTOR TURNAGE: The initial group was about 134 15 names. The second group that was sent in was something like 16 17 70 names. MR. MEESE: What has been the experience with those 18 when they get their notice to show up in the district court? 19 20 Do they register then? MR. PUSCHECK: I don't think it is that far along. 21 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: There may well be--let me 22 put it this way. Is there any pattern to the ones to whom notices have been sent because if you are sending notices 24

Acme Reporting Company

to people who have announced probably to the neighbors they

25

aren't going to register and the neighbors turn them in, you are dealing with a somewhat specialized group of the population who would probably be much more resistant than people who just forget all about it, so I think we would need to know a little bit more about this, these 130 or whatever, whywere they chosen for prosecution?

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: Simply because they were turned in and we couldn't ignore the fact that they were violating the law.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: It is pretty hard for a neighbor to follow a chap around all day for a year and know whether he has or hasn't.

more than 134 initially turned in, but after the list was scrubbed, they found out a lot of those had in fact registered or when they got the first notice they did register or were aliens that didn't require to register—variability in the system.

MR. PUSCHECK: We contacted those people when the names were provided. They were contacted.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: There hasn't been anything like a dragnet sent out or anything I take it?

MR. MEESE: Who is the rat fink back here?

MR. ANDERSON: If you go back to the '70's, you had a situation where you had a draft and registration. As

I understood them, the majority of cases, the biggest problem was prosecuting people who were trying to dodge the draft per se.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: That is correct; 13 percent we figure were prosecuted because of failure to register. The balance were because of failure to be drafted.

MR. ANDERSON: What you are really talking about, while there are 800,000, I am not sure that the vast majority if they were asked to show up wouldn't just come and sign the register.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: That is the assumption.

MR. ANDERSON: You are talking about substantial numbers of people who have to be somehow taken care of in the system. I think the real question is what kind of cost will that impose on the Justice Department? I don't think there is anything in the budget now.

MR. McCOY: I wonder about the possibility of using some sort of negative kind of incentives in that if you don't go down and register for the draft and have a draft card you have problems doing such things as getting unemployment compensation, Social Security card, being able to vote.

In other words, you don't really have to go after them with the Justice Department. You don't have to go after them. They are prevented from certain other privileges.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: You are into some pretty substantial statutory changes if you do that. Eight percent, 7, 8 percent is a pretty small figure. What it is translated into, 800,000 people, is a very large figure, and the worst factor, of course, is that if there is a general perception that nothing happens to you if you don't register, why you are going to have a lot more than 8 percent pretty soon I suspect.

DR, KORB: One factor, probably a lot of young people think the President already cancelled it.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: There is no way of estimating what a simple statement from General Turnage with wide publication from the President perhaps or from any one of a number of other possibilities, what that would do. It would probably reduce a big chunk of the 800,000, particularly when the lack of major obligation is made known.

I am sure there are a lot of people that confuse registration with the imminent obligation of reporting to the Army and taking the terrible oath and going to work, and that would have to be disabused, so we are in a very problematical area. There is no question about that, and I guess there has never been, well, never, but since the 1980 revival of it there hasn't been any kind of enforcement activity to speak of.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: That is correct, sir. That is

part of the difficulty.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Beyond enforcement, there hasn't been all that much publication.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: And there was a cloud which was placed over it because of the Supreme Court action relating to it. Other people thought we don't have to do it because they are going to declare it unconstitutional, that sort of thing.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: That is now clear.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: All the factors have opted against it. I am convinced it will go the other way with the proper support.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We are back on the question of how do we present what to the President, and I guess what we would want to try to do would be to summarize this data in suitable form and perfectly fair form after listing the options; and I take it nobody has thought of any more than these four options, have they?

SECRETARY LEHMAN: What is Option C? What does that involve?

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: I have to tell you that I am not happy with those two options either.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: All right. Let's nail the options down before we do anything else.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: What happened in the determination

of this paper as I understand it, the original paper, is that we had the option of first going with what we do now, or secondly, having the post-mobilization the rest of the time given by Selective Service, what would be required in order to conduct a reasonable, conservative, successful conscription, and they came up with 58 days, and the guy who came up with it is sitting here, Dr. Puscheck, and my guidance to him was based on your experience that you had in the System during the war between when President Carter made the decision, give us your best guess of what can be done.

Dr. Anderson's office, and so forth, they came up with a lesser figure. I ammot sanguine about that figure, the 36 day thing, and quite frankly, if it reaches that point, I would have to be a dissenter from that aspect because I want to give the President what I know that I can do in some logical ways so when they say an accelerated mobilization or registration, I think from day one if I am given the word to conduct a registration, it is going to be the fastest thing you can do, the most accelerated you can do, and there is some options that are built into their proposal which are less than desirable from my point of view.

Obviously we want to take advantage of everything that there is to expedite it so I think that there is probably

not any difference from my point of view and my concern of the two, the accelerated versus the non-accelerated.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I take it obviously if we got into a mobilization situation we would certainly want you to do that.

I don't know. Is there anybody who would be for post-mobilization, non-accelerated or post-mobilization accelerated?

MR. ANDERSON: Can I comment on C? I have got some problems with C, too. I think 36 is probably considerably higher than it should be. I think the basic question is not one of whether one, as a judgment based on experience, is correct or not, but those two options differ not on the basis of judgment, but on the basis of fact, and I think that is why they are presented as different options.

In one, for example, pre-positioning of the materials, that is the very point we brought up last time. You could save a considerable amount of money by doing that and it was generally agreed that is a viable option to the Postmaster General. It seems to me that was simply not incorporated, and that is one of the reasons why you have 58 days.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I thought 36 days was the one that applied to the pre-positioning of materials?

MR. ANDERSON: Some pre-positioning, but not full.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: What does that cost us?

MR. ANDERSON: You might pick up three or four days.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: In the way of dollars.

MR. ANDERSON: I am not sure. The options differ not because of:someone's judgment, but because they are factually different.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: It is certainly a judgment on the effectiveness of the Post Office to keep track of and manage those pre-positioned assets. I think at least it ought to be, the assumptions ought to be--

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: If they handle it the way the Civil Defense people used to handle the pre-positioning of water and biscuits, we would be in serious trouble.

MR. ANDERSON: The alternative is you trust them with a one-shot distribution which may be worse.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: May I?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Sure.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: First of all, President Carter called for registration on January the 23rd. Registration occurred on July the 22nd. Six months went by. That is, one day, and they were going full force to get that done.

Obviously there has been a lot of success in establishing the system in that period of time. However, we did notice a lot of other problems that occurred just

post Offices, and our error rate in answering eleven questions on the form runs something like 15 percent.

Now on the accelerated form that they are discussing here, it is to have these people go and register at a local Post Office, then have all the registration cards sent to 250 centers where they would be sorted and then from there they would go to IRS centers where they would be key punched, and from there they would come to our location where they would be finally processed for the notification, the tickets and the rest of it.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: What this is, what you are describing is the accelerated?

between there and the system that we have where the registration forms are sent from the Post Offices to our location and go through the batching and the sorting and the key punching and the processing and so forth, there have got to be some days that can be saved. We subscribe to that, so it seems to me based on what my predecessors said and what my best operations guy said who was involved in it, knows about it, there would be some kind of timeframe based on a four to eight week period that would be required in order to conduct a post-mobilization registration program.

Now if we are lucky and everything went well, we

think we could get it at four weeks, but we think that is optimum.

On the other hand, if we are not lucky based on some of the things they encountered when they did it before, we are talking more like eight weeks, but I don't want to put before you gentlemen or the President some Pollyanna view about this problem because it is too vital.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: What were some of the problems in 1980 that took from January to July?

MR. MEESE: The Carter Administration!

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I'm trying to discount that.

(A discussion was held off the record.)

MR. MEESE: I think that what is meant here by C, accelerated post-mobilization register, means that the registration itself can take place post-mobilization, but the pre-positioning and so on could be taking place in advance of mobilization so that you are saving whatever period of what you are talking about for your running in time which is what differentiates that from item B which assumes that you don't start until--

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: To the extent the budget would support that and any other action, Ed, we would be pleased to take that action now.

MR. MEESE: It is something that a President could order, in other words, if there was an imminent national

emergency, or in his mind there was an imminent national emergency. Conceivably it is the kind of thing where the stuff would go out to the Post Offices.

Let's take an example. Let's suppose that it looked like the Russians were going to invade Poland here and the President at this point says I think we ought to go to Stage A for registration which means get all the stuff out, now this does a couple of things. One is it gives you some leadtime on registration.

The other thing is that it gives a signal. He can use this for national security purposes. and he is going to commence registration without commencing it as Carter did in Afghanistan.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: It is a very big signal. There is no question about that.

MR. MEESE: What we are trying to suggest here is that there are more options than just having registration or not having registration.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Well, again, in pursuit of the problem of what to present to the President, can we say something to the effect either leaving it with these four options as such and say post-mobilization registration which would mean that we would, without pre-positioning materials and what other else is involved in C, we would advise the Selective Service System to be prepared to the extent they

could to implement post-mobilization registration, that therefore we could say under that the concensus, if this is true, feels that this would take roughly 50 days or whatever to accomplish. If, however, we went to Option C which would mean pre-positioning the materials, that would require an appropriation of blank dollars. We believe that number could be reduced to 30 days, 32 days.

If there is pre-mobilization registration which is the possibility of registering before mobilization when a President determines that there is some crisis, that would still take roughly the length of time it took in B, but since we have not by definition reached a mobilization decision, we could be ready somewhat sooner, but we would be sending a very powerful signal around leading to some inattentive editors saying U. S. mobilizes, and otherwise requiring a lot of various explanations and so forth and so on, and I think all of those things are things that ought to be before him.

Now we go back to the basic question. Do these four options correctly state the available range of decisionmaking for the President?

MR. MEESE: I would like to make one word change, and that is in C, on the third line where it says, "post-mobilization registrations through pre-positioning," add the word "through pre-positioning prior to mobilization of

materials.

MR. ANDERSON: What page?

SECRETARY LEHMAN: It is on page 2.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I think that is what prepositioning means.

MR. MEESE: Pre-positioning means before you start the registration.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: In military parlance I gather it means getting your guns in the warehouse much closer to where you think the action is going to be before there is action.

MR. MEESE: In other words, it puts it during the period prior to the mobilization day.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We could certainly add that because that is what we are talking about.

MR. MEESE: It distinguishes it from post-mobilization.

. CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Anybody have any other word changes or options or less options?

MR. McCOY: One thing I was thinking might be of some use, particularly as it relates to the other issues in this that we are considering today, is perhaps along with the options that might be available to the President on mobilization decisions that he could make in the other areas, that in effect we provide a package for presentation to the

Congress.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: If he chooses A, for example, you ought to have a proposed press release and a proposed message to Congress?

MR. McCOY: Yes, sir, particularly as it relates to the Selected Reserve buildup and the IRR. We are not going to registration, but I am taking action to increase the military service obligation, to do this, that, and the other, so that he can take more of an, he can take some of the sting out of not going forward.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: If you are going to use B or C you would suggest that the statement of those options indicate some other actions he could take that would increase the IRR, et cetera, et cetera?

MR. McCOY: Right.

MR. ANDERSON: Let me second that. If you are talking about any kind of signals on the international scene, I really think that taking active steps to bring in real men who are going to be trained and combat ready is going to mean more in terms of signals.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Well, I have a little

quarrel with that because of the perception correct or

otherwise with which these things are discussed abroad in

NATO meetings, and I have never yet started a discussion of

why they should be giving, individual countries should be

doing more without some tiresome staff pounding on the table and saying but you do not draft people and we draft people.

MR. ANDERSON: I was talking about registering.

European eyes it is all mixed up, and if we stop registration, why then they are going to say you don't even register people, and we are going to go all through that again. If think the international is a very significant part of it, frankly. That is more on the merits than the form. At the moment we are talking form, so let me ask again if with the change that was suggested of adding the various things that could be done by the President in either B, C or I take it D, or in any of the events—

MR.ANDERSON: Or in A also.

MR McCOY: Toughened up, particularly if he doesn't

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Yes. Independent of this decision, that it is his desire to do one, two, three, four on the ready reserve and so on, I think that is a good point. That still leaves us with four, with presumably some supporting statement of a broad range of findings with respect to saving time, somewhere between 30 to 52 days or 31 to 58 days or 29 to 58 days or whatever, something that we could ultimately get agreement on, there is that kind of range of different estimates.

SECRETARY MARSH: You know, I am not just sure where this comes down, but I am pretty sure we have got to think about it as if he were not to continue the registration and were to assume the Congress would not rescind it--

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Would not?

SECRETARY MARSH: Take away the basic authority for him to do it, assuming they wouldn't do that, but nevertheless when you sought to do either of the other three options, you are going to have to have an appropriation for this.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Oh, indeed.

SECRETARY MARSH: If you look at the history of the manner in which, how difficult it was to get registration to begin with, you may not get that appropriation that readily. It may not be that easy to do.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I think it certainly is fair to say the Armed Services Committee, and I haven't canvassed the House, but the Armed Services Committee is very strongly for registration at the very least, and a great many of them are talking about reviving the draft.

GENERAL JONES: At least for some of these other options, they were the ones that put in restrictions on the funding, and if you cancel registration, you now lose 4 million for that, that you lose an additional \$4 million.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We had some problems with people on the pay raise who wanted to keep the pay low so

you would force a draft which was extremely troublesome to me.

GENERAL JONES: The point is very valid. You will have great difficulty in getting some of the options through Congress.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: That should be before the President as to what Congressional action is needed and an estimate of the chances or at least an estimate that many people on the committee feel that there would be quite a bit of difficulty in doing that.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Senator Hatfield is very negative on anything to do with sustaining registration.

MR. MEESE: On the other hand, if registration is to be stopped, he might be more willing to go for a stand-by appropriation.

MR. SCHNEIDER: That is possible also.

MR. MEESE: If the alternative is to continue registration.

SECRETARY MARSH: You would have to package it.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: My understanding is any military appropriation stand-by or otherwise is something he would oppose.

MR. MEESE: Then the alternative is the President put it to him I just have to continue peacetime registration, and you are the man making it possible.

GENERAL JONES: Hatfield is not going to be a

problem.

...

GENERAL JONES: Even though he doesn't want registration, if the Congress supports the registration, what they have said is if we don't have registration we are not going to give you the money to do some of the other things.

MR. MEESE: What other things?

GENERAL JONES: They say if you stopped registration you not only can't spend the money for registration, 4 million, you cannot spend an additional \$4 million for Selective Service work.

DR. KORB: It goes back to a million dollars a month.

would have problems getting the pre-positioning appropriation out. I don't know, but I think that ought to be before the President that that is something that we would have to worry about.

Well, any other? What we want to do now, and we have got some drafts ready, and I don't think it will take very long, what we want to do is draft a piece of paper I would guess if that is the will of the commission that does list options with the emanations and decisions we have suggested that attempts to summarize the arguments and the background as succinctly as possible, that attempts to give the President an idea of what happens if various options are

selected and indicate the support that each option has and 1 2 get it before him: 3 MR. MEESE: I think there are two things needed 4 to be done. One of the things is the summary that precedes 5 the report here I think should go toward the end so that it 6 addresses -- and should be somewhere in the body of the report. 7 Secondly, I think that the summary of the options which is on the last page of the report just before the 8 appendix needs to be flushed out with two more columns so you take each of the four options. This only has two. 10 11 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Which is this? On which page? 12 MR. MEESE: It is an unnumbered page that follows 13 page--DR. KORB: Page 6; it follows page 6. 14 15 MR. MEESE: You need to have four columns. CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Oh, I see. Yes. All right. 16 Any otherquestions about that? DR. KORB: Might I suggest that people send their 18 comments in to me and I will send them to you for final. 19 20 We have incorporated most of them. MR. MEESE: Shouldn't they go to Mr. Turnage as 21 Executive Secretary of the commission? 22 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Right, and he can get them 23 then to me and we can grind them into a final report which 24 would be sent on an "Eyes Only" basis to the members, and

Acme Reporting Company

25

1 if people were satisfied with it and with the expression of 2 their views, if theywere satisfied their views had been 3 properly represented they could initial it, and we could 4 bundle it offto the White House and I would ask only that objections not be captious, some equal consideration argued 5 6 over at great length, and perhaps with considerable validity, but let us object to, if we have to object at all, to things 7 that are really meritorious and that seriously-interferes 8 with the President's getting a proper view of our general 10 viewpoint. DIRECTOR TURNAGE: Sir, would you give me a clue 11 about when I should expect to receive these? I think time 12 13 is--MR. MEESE: What is the date that the President's 14

order runs out?

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: It doesn't run out, sir.

MR. MEESE: I thought it had a--

DR. KORB: That is a budgetary decision.

MR. MEESE: I see.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: Unless he takes action, it will continue.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I guess ASAP is probably our guide, as it usually is, and we would like to get everything done here as quickly as we could.

MR. MEESE: How about close of business Thursday,

which is three days away?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Are we in a position to circulate a draft that incorporates all the good ideas we have had today by Thursday?

MR. WEIDENBAUM: Very short.

SECRETARY MARSH: You are just referring to the Selective Service option, registration option and not to the other matters?

MR. MEESE: Right. I am talking about the Selective Service registration issue. In other words, if we take this report that says, that is dated the 23rd of November or which is really dated, the draft, 19 November I guess, and use that as a guide to add in the comments that have been made today plus whatever additional comments we have, and if that is determined by the close of business on Thursday, he could then give you a revised draft I would assume that could go to you for your look.

. CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I will not be able to review it effectively until about the 14th of December because I will be wandering around various NATO installations and countries.

MR. MEESE: For budget purposes, are there any critical dates here that we have ahead of us in the next 30 days?

MR.SCHNEIDER: The only critical one is when the

President wants to wrap it up.

MR. MEESE: If he should decide not to continue peacetime registration, that just means you have got 8 million more dollars to squander.

MR. SCHNEIDER: We'll find a place for it.

DIRECTOR TURNAGE: I hate to hear you put it that way.

Well, I think then if we could get copies of that report, of the draft, I ask Larry and Tom to work together to get the suggestions made today incorporated and to keep it as succinct, as accurate and as complete and useful as possible for the President, circulate that around, we can then either by phone or otherwise get the actual vote recorded and bundle it all off to him, but I would appreciate it if it is understood that the date of bundling it off to the President is somewhere in the December 15th range.

MR. MEESE: After you get back?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Yes. Meanwhile, a lot of preliminaries could be done.

MR. SCHNEIDER: May I address one issue that is related to Mr. Stockman's--

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: His letter to me.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Basically we think this is a very good forum for addressing some of these military manpower

issues, and the work that we have done to date represents the key issues that we have had to address, but it may be time, it may be in our interest to have this forum to review other military manpower issues that arise.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We want to give the President ultimately a more complete report than just on registration. We have done quite a lot of work on other areas, and I would suspect that after December 15th and we have transmitted this and perhaps as part of that report we could advise him that other things are coming, but coming quite quickly so that we don't sort of prolong our life.

I think we want to address those issues, but I think we wouldn't want to stay alive indefinitely simply because those will always be major issues. I think we want to give him the benefit of our thinking on compensation and certainly I would like personally to include some things about educational benefits and some comments at the same level as it has now been achieved, some gaps, some problems with the general pay lid that is causing us some pain and suffering among senior officers, and educational benefits, but I don't see any reason why that need be prolonged.

MR. SCHNEIDER: I don't have necessarily in mind a permanent body for this purpose, but there are other issues that owing to the pressure of time we haven't been able to address at this juncture.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I think after the December

15th report if we are using that as a convenient date, after
that is transmitted to the President, I think then we ought
to address with considerable diligence what issues are felt
to be left, one of which could certainly be compensation, and
wind up our work on that somewhere in mid-January perhaps.

MR. SCHNEIDER: That would be fine.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: All right.

DR. KORB: We have in our book a copy of the interim report. Do you still want to have the interim report to the President with what we have done up to now?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: In addition to the--

DR. KORB: This will not go with it.

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Yes. I think that we could certainly consider whether we would want to send that to him, but also perhaps revise that to indicate some of the things we still have left to do and that we hope to wind that up well, for safety sake, before the end of January.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: That would mean you are going to send the interim report December 15th along with the draft on registration?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: We could send him a summary of it, yes.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: Because it seems to me it is--I couldn't sign that report the way the draft is.

1 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: The interim report, apart 2 from the registration? 3 MR. LEHMAN: Apart from the registration. 4 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: I didn't think the interim 5 report reached conclusions. 6 SECRETARY LEHMAN: It does. The whole thing is a 7 conclusion -- everything is great. 8 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Well, the all-volunteer 9 Armed Forces are, as the President has said publicly, 10 extremely gratifying. 11 SECRETARY LEHMAN: That's right, but the draft report says that we are all confident that we will for the 12 next ten years meet all of our, we can attract and retain 13 enough of the right kind of people to man the Armed Forces 14 in the next decade without resorting to conscription. 15 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Parentheses, Secretary 16 17 Lehman lacks this confidence. 18 SECRETARY LEHMAN: Right. 19 MR. ANDERSON: Always has! 20 CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: Let us try, and in the interim portion of the report let's see if we cannot perhaps 21 reach irreversible decisions since there will be a subsequent 22 23 final report to the President that would not deal with the 24 registration but would deal with all other matters.

Acme Reporting Company

DR. KORB: We plan to send that report when it is

25

finalized through the working group for Congress before it goes up.

SECRETARY MARSH: I think John's point, I concur in it. If we limit the issue immediately to the Selective Service registration rather than encumber it with an interim report it might be easier to get a decision.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: This interim report says that we have looked at all of the issues of the all-volunteer force for the next ten years, funding profiles for the next five years, and we haven't. The working group hasn't done it. At least the working group ought to, and they haven't begun to delve into these issues.

How can we send an interim report saying we have?

DR. KORB: We don't intend to.

SECRETARY LEHMAN: Okay.

MR. MEESE: Isn't it correct, Mr. Chairman, what we plan to do is send him on or about the 15th of December the report on Selective Service registration only? Then at our next meeting we should among ourselves discuss what additional topics need to be addressed?

CHAIRMAN WEINBERGER: And a timeframe for doing that that would enable us to finish our work by the end of January and so much work has been done on this. Now we may very well need to get some additional views into the various problems involved and require recruiting for the next four,

Acme Reporting Company

(202) 628-4888

five, six, seven years, whatever, and possibly an estimate of what that costs, but that also would be before him at that time.

I don't think we have to do that by December 15th.

I think we probably do have to do it, and if there is dissent, so be it, but I don't think we can spend the time necessary to get 100 percent agreement and anybody is perfectly free to file a dissent as I am sure this registration report will have different views. We can call them dissents or majority or minority or separate views or concurring views or whatever anybody wants to call them, but the President ought to know the feeling of the commission, and initially he more or less has to know it on the issue of registration as soon as possible. All right?

So we would not, I take it if we can resolve the report by mail so to speak and phone and get all of that lined up, we would not need another meeting before December 15th.

We should with any luck have the form of the report ready by maybe ten days, December 10th, and then I would be the only one holding it up while I am working my way back from NATO and even try to get an advanced copy and look at it on the plane, and then we could after that decide when our January meeting should be to look at what is left.

All right? That's it. Thank you.
(Whereupon, at 5:37 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)

Acme Reporting Company

.

. 10

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NUMBER:

CASE TITLE: Military Manpower Task Force

HEARING DATE: -November 30, 1981

LOCATION: Washington, D. C.

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence herein are contained fully and accurately on the tapes and notes reported by me at the hearing in the above case before Department of Defense and that this is a true and correct transcript of the same.

Date: December 3, 1981

Official Reporter

Acme Reporting Company, Inc.

1411 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005