

Voluntary Service—Possible?

By Fred S. Hoffman
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The question of whether the United States should return to an all-volunteer armed force is caught in cross-currents of argument over race, military influence, patriotism and cost.

Some people oppose the draft because they feel it bears unfairly on blacks.

At the same time, others oppose an all-volunteer force on grounds it would be largely black — their theory being that poor Negroes would be more attracted by the higher pay than would whites who can get better civilian jobs.

President Nixon's special commission weighed the pros and cons for nearly a year before recommending last Saturday the draft, except for emergency standby machinery, be allowed to die next year and that it be replaced by an all-volunteer force.

It stated its belief that the United States could raise and maintain armed forces totalling about 2.5 million men in peacetime without the draft, chiefly by boosting the pay of first-term servicemen and some other improvements in military life.

Past studies have reached the conclusion that it would cost possibly as much as \$17 billion a year more to assure armed forces of that size.

The last time the U.S. government attempted to get along without the draft was a 15-month period in 1947 and 1948.

In those days, the United States had a military force of about 1.5 million—about one million fewer than the Nixon commission's target.

However, there were about 50 million fewer Americans in the total population, and the Nixon commission is counting on the growing supply of youths for the necessary volunteers into today's bigger force.

The commission pointed out that more than half of the present force of 3.3 million men are volunteers. But critics reply that many of these volunteers sign up in the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps—which make little or no use of the draft—to avoid being drafted into the Army.

In his presidential campaign in 1968, Nixon came out for the all-volunteer force and said that "in terms of morale, efficiency and effectiveness, a volunteer armed force would assuredly be a better armed force."

His commission said: "A return to an all-volunteer force will strengthen our freedoms, remove an inequity now imposed on the expression of the patriotism that never has been lacking among our youth, promote the efficiency of the armed forces, and enhance their dignity."

In other arguments for the

all-volunteer force, the commission said:

—“Men who are forced to serve in the military at artificially low pay are actually paying a form of tax which subsidizes those in the society who do not serve.”

—The draft “has been a costly, inequitable and divisive procedure for recruiting men for the armed force.”

—“It has weakened the political fabric of our society and impaired the delicate web of shared values that alone enables a free society to exist.”

More than five years ago, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress he would be against a volunteer professional army because “the U.S. Army always has been closely identified with the broad base of population, and I like it that way.”

There is no indication that Wheeler has changed his mind.

In its 211-page report, the presidential commission listed some of the major objections to the all-volunteer force, and answered those objections.

Here are some of those objections, and the commission's replies.

1. Higher pay for voluntary force will be especially appealing to Negroes who have relatively poor civilian opportunities.

Answer: “The frequently heard claim that a volunteer force will be all black or all this or all that, simply has no basis in fact. Our research indicates the composition of the armed forces will not be fundamentally changed by ending conscription . . .”

2. “The presence of draftees in a mixed force guards against the growth of a separate military ethos which could pose a threat to civilian authority, our freedom, and our democratic institutions.”

Answer: “Historically, voluntary service and freedom have gone hand in hand . . . In either a mixed or volunteer force, the attitudes of the officer corps are

the preponderant factor in the psychology of the military; and with or without the draft, professional officers are recruited voluntarily from a variety of regional and socio-economic backgrounds.”

3. An all-volunteer force “will undermine patriotism by weakening the traditional belief that each citizen has a moral responsibility to serve his country.”

Answer: “Compelling service through a draft undermines respect for government by forcing an individual to serve when and in the manner the government decides, regardless of his own values and talents.”

4. An all-volunteer force “would stimulate foreign military adventures, foster an irresponsible foreign policy, and lessen civilian concern about the use of military forces.”

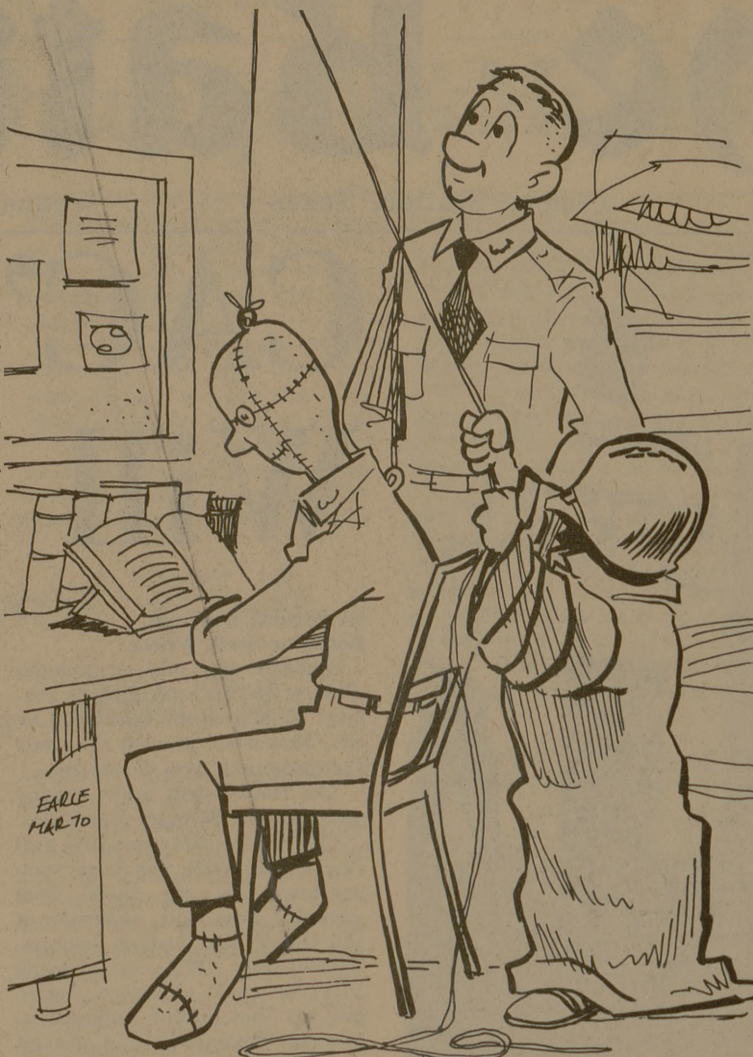
Answer: “. . . To the extent that there is pressure to seek military solutions to foreign policy problems, such pressure already exists and will not be affected by ending conscription. The volunteer force will have the same professional leadership as the present mixed force . . .”

5. An all-volunteer force “will lack the flexibility to expand rapidly in times of sudden crisis.”

Answer: “Military preparedness depends on forces in being, not on the ability to draft untrained men . . . The commission has recommended to standby draft which can be put into effect promptly if circumstances require mobilization of large numbers of men.”

U. S. military authorities and the presidential commission staff both studied closely the experience of Great Britain in shifting to an all-volunteer force.

“British officials have said that the fully volunteer force is more productive than a mixed force because of lower turnover and the superior performance of more experienced servicemen,” the commission report said.



EARLE MAR-70



Pausing for a moment to look over their new offices in the MSC, the recently expanded staff of Beverley Braley Tours and Travel are: Director of Student travel Mr. Ed Rogers; Domestic travel consultants, Mrs. Mabelle Amis and Mrs. Rita Cooksey; International travel and tours consultant Mrs. Sigrud Carter; Assistant Director of Student travel; and Manager, Jack Owens.

You may call Mrs. Amis and Mrs. Cooksey for your domestic travel plans or Mrs. Carter for your international travel plans. Beverley Braley Travel offers you immediate IBM computerized reservations for your air, car, and hotel reservations. We offer you the convenience of the 30-day personal charge account as well as all other credit cards accepted by the airlines, in addition to free ticket delivery.

Visit our expanded facilities in the MSC upstairs from the main reservation desk. We have added a conference room for group meetings and personal travel consultation. These offices will also serve as the headquarters for student travel. Ed Rogers will be available to help with your student travel plans and arrange for your Air Travel Youth Cards to allow you to travel at reduced rates.

MEMBER ASTA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION
Beverley Braley
tours . . . travel
Bonded ASTA Agent

HERE'S Where the BIGGEST SAVINGS are TOTAL

HEINZ TOMATO KETCHUP
BIG 20oz BOTTLES
3 99¢

GOLDEN AGE SOFT DRINKS
12 1.00
12 OZ CANS

SPECIALS FOR:
THURS-FRI+SAT
MARCH 5-6+7, 1970
ALL QUANTITY RIGHTS RESERVED

BROOKSHIRE BROS. GRADE "A" LARGE EGGS
DOZEN 49¢

OVEN PRIDE FLOUR 5lb BAG 39¢
KLEENEX DECORATOR OR ASST. COLORS TOWELS 3 \$1.00
36 ROLLS

U.S.D.A. GRADE "A" WHOLE FRYERS 1b. 29¢

CALIFORNIA ICEBERG LETTUCE HEAD 15¢

LITE FLUFF FLAKY BISCUITS 4oz CAN 5¢

REDEEM AT BROOKSHIRE BROS.
50 FREE TOP VALUE STAMPS
With Purchase of 10 1/2-Oz. Bottle Heinz Worcestershire Sauce
Coupon Expires March 7, 1970.

REDEEM AT BROOKSHIRE BROS.
50 FREE TOP VALUE STAMPS
With Purchase of 46-Oz. Can Johnson's Glory
Coupon Expires March 7, 1970.

REDEEM AT BROOKSHIRE BROS.
100 EXTRA TOP VALUE STAMPS
With Purchase of \$10.00 or More (Excluding Cigarettes) • One Per Family
Coupon Expires March 7, 1970.

Brookshire Bros. THE BEST FOR LESS

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
Hillel Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Hillel House.

Aggie Wives Bridge Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC.

The Port Arthur Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 110 Military Science.

The Aggie Christian Fellowship will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 304 Physics. The program will be "The Normal Christian Life," a three week series on Romans 5-8, led by Don Geiger from Houston.

THURSDAY
DeWitt-Lavaca Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203 Academic. The meeting is for election of officers and

making of plans for the Easter Party.

San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 2D Memorial Student Center.

American Legion Post No. 159 and its auxiliary will have a dinner meeting at 7 p.m. in the Legion Hall. Members are asked to bring a covered dish; meat will be furnished by the Legion.

TUESDAY
Dr. E. J. Dyksterhuis will speak on "Some Opinions on Man's Role in the Planetary Ecosystem" at 7:30 p.m. in the Architecture Auditorium. The program is sponsored by the Forum for Environmental Studies.

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

1969 TPA Award Winner

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Z. L. Carpenter, College of Agriculture.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

MEMBER
The Associated Press, Texas Press Association
The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.00 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 4 1/2% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.
EDITOR: DAVE MAYES
Managing Editor: David Middlebrooke
Women's Editor: Cindy Burleson
News Editor: Pam Trobroy
Sports Editor: Richard Campbell
Assistant Sports Editor: Mike Wright
Staff Writers: Hayden Whitsett, Bob Robinson, Chaney Lewis, Janie Wallace, Fran Haugen, Randy Murdock, Billy Buchanan, Gibril Fadika, Tommy Thompson
Sports Writer: Clifford Broyles
Columnists: Roger Miller, Mike McClain
Photographers: Jim Berry, David Gawthorpe, Mel Miller, Robert Boyd
Sports Photographer: Mike Wright

MAN YOUR MANNERS

Lecture Room Rm. 113
Biology Bldg.

WEDNESDAYS 4, 11, 18

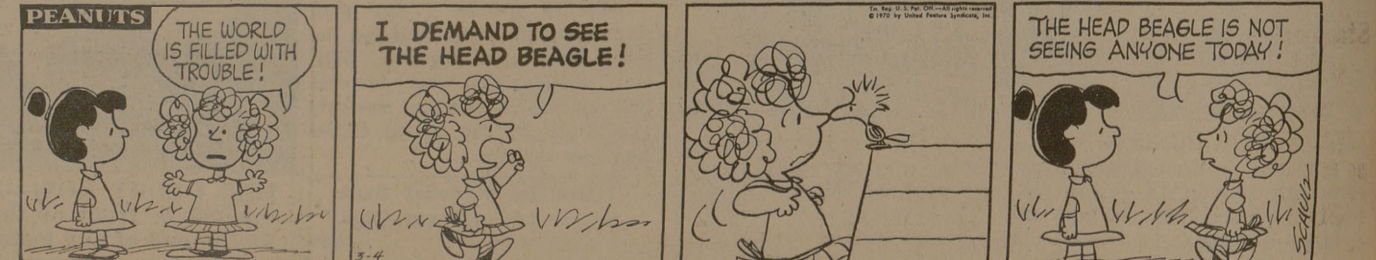
MARCH 1970

7:30 P.M.

Sponsored By Special Programs

Y.M.C.A.

PEANUTS



By Charles M. Schulz