

GENERAL SCIENCE

Student Deferment Cut

One of legacies of Truman's administration to President Eisenhower is the manpower problem: Can the U. S. maintain an armed force of 3,700,000 men with only a two-year draft?

► THE NEW assistant secretary of defense for manpower, John A. Hannah, will have to decide almost immediately whether to draft fathers and cut down on college student deferments.

The Truman administration held off making a decision on this, preferring to leave it to President Eisenhower's administration.

Dr. Hannah, president of Michigan State College, replaces Anna Rosenberg as head of the Defense Department manpower policies.

Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, head of Selective Service, has said that the mathematics of the situation will make it necessary to draft fathers almost immediately. In that case, he says, college student deferments should be cut too. The Engineering Manpower Commission recently pointed out that drafting fathers, cutting down on college and essential worker deferments would only delay the decision on a much more fundamental question.

This is whether we can maintain a 3,700,000-man armed force with only a two-year draft if only a million men are turning 18 each year.

The engineers declared that, once the pool of 19- to 25-year-olds, including fathers, is exhausted, it will not be mathematically possible to keep our armed forces at 3,700,000 unless the draft period is increased.

Even the most extreme proponents of college deferment admit that this must be cut somewhat if fathers are drafted. Right now 184,000 students are in the deferred status. How much this will be cut no one knows—four different percentages are being discussed. Hit hardest in the cut will probably be smaller graduate schools whose standards are not too high. They may lose most of their students.

Dr. Hannah is known to be sympathetic to the college deferment plan and also to the maintenance of a strong ROTC. In 1948-49, he was president of the Association of Land Grant Colleges which stands for across-the-board student deferment, rather than deferment by the kind of courses the students pursue. However, Dr. Hannah believes that in most cases, deferment should end with the end of the college career. No one should be permanently exempted from military service, is his thought.

He is greatly concerned about the impact of Defense Department manpower policies on the young people of the nation. He does not like policies which constantly shift and veer. The young people, he believes, should at least know what is in store for them, even though their being drafted to help defend the nation might make their fate seem tough.

Science News Letter, January 24, 1953

GENERAL SCIENCE

More Funds for Bombs

► PRODUCTION OF atomic bombs will rise although total appropriation for the Atomic Energy Commission will be cut in about half, if Congress follows ex-President Truman's proposed budget.

AEC expenditures hit a peak of \$4,200,000,000 in the fiscal year 1953, ending six months from now. Mr. Truman suggested an appropriation next year of \$1,996,000,000. Much of the four billions was appropriated for new plant construction.

Operating costs for weapons and source and fissionable materials which go into atomic bombs were about \$606,000,000 in fiscal year 1953. They would be \$750,000,000 in fiscal 1954.

However, funds for plant and equipment in those categories, almost \$3,000,000,000 in fiscal 1953, are scheduled for only about \$740,000,000 in 1954.

Increases in total operating funds for the next fiscal year would "provide for increases in our reserve of atomic weapons and for the development and testing of improved

weapons," Mr. Truman told Congress in his budget message.

The budget indicated that there might be weapons tests at both Nevada and Eniwetok during fiscal 1954.

There would also be some expansion of the program to build atomic-powered submarines and airplanes, according to the former President.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Bedroom and Stairs Biggest Home Killers

► THE BEDROOM and the stairs accounted for nearly one-half of all the fatal injuries sustained in the home during 1951, statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in New York have reported.

Among men, the stairs and steps were first as accident scenes, with more than one-fourth of all the deaths, with the bedroom

second. Among women, the order was reversed, most fatal injuries to them occurring in the bedroom.

Fully half the fatal injuries in the bedroom came from conflagrations or burns by other means. Not a few came from smoking in bed, although many spread from kitchen or living room.

Many bedroom accidents came from falls. Slipping on a wet floor, tripping on nightgown, colliding with chair and faintness are among the causes given for these. Falling out of a window "was an important item among males, while falls out of bed were most frequently mentioned among females," the statisticians report.

Their findings are based on death claims of industrial policyholders of the company, but their experience is said to give a good picture of the situation in the United States.

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TECHNOLOGY

Capture Fruit Flavors Lost Making Preserves

► FLAVORS USUALLY lost in making preserves can be captured and returned to the preserves or added to other fruit products, using a new process developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The flavor recovery method, perfected at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia, is a modification of the process now used for capturing the volatile flavors from fruit juices. It involves changing the usual condenser arrangement on cooking kettles. The cooling water is maintained at a low temperature, thus condensing practically all of the desired aroma, which can then be concentrated to an essence.

The concentrated flavor is suitable for adding to beverages, fountain syrups, ice cream, confectionery and other desserts as well as preserves.

The process was developed by N. C. Aceto, R. K. Eskew, G. W. M. Phillips, C. S. Redfield and J. J. Skalamera.

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INVENTION

Go Up Hill With Power-Driven Ski

► YOUR SKIS will carry you up hill if they are made like the invention of Stanley Van Voorhees, West Los Angeles, Calif. Little tractor units are attached to the upper sides of the skis. Power to drive the belts is supplied either by a motor carried on the sportsman's back or by two smaller motors also attached to the skis.

When the skier wants to go up hill, he turns the skis over, turns on the motor and off he goes. When he wants to ski back down the hill, he reverses the position of the skis and starts off.

Mr. Van Voorhees received patent number 2,625,229.

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