

above and back of the turret may be doing, the gunner "steers" his turret as if it were a fighter plane, and when his sights bear on his target he fires.

The turret may be armed with either a single light cannon or with one or more machine guns.

Science News Letter, March 22, 1941

GENERAL SCIENCE

Students To Be Deferred If Rated As "Necessary"

Memorandum Sent by Gen. Hershey to State Directors Tells How Cases Should Be Handled by Local Boards

A STUDENT training for any occupation essential to the national health, safety or interests may have his selective service deferred provided the local board finds that student to be a "necessary man," Selective Service Deputy Director Lewis B. Hershey told all state directors in a memorandum just sent to them.

This action was taken in response to recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences and the Subcommittee on Military Affairs of the National Committee on Education and Defense made at the request of Dr. C. A. Dykstra, Director of the Selective Service System.

Educators, scientists, and other interested persons have expressed marked

concern about the status of students in professional, scientific, technical, and other highly specialized fields after July 1, when the group deferment of students provided by the Act expires, Gen. Hershey said.

After July 1, there must be no deviation from the statutory prohibition against group deferments, he warned. But any individual student may be deferred if the local board finds him to be a "necessary man."

In making this decision, the local board should consider each individual case on its own merits. In reclassifying students, all facts in the possession of the local board at the time of the student's classification in I-D or I-E should again be given full consideration, together with any evidence of changed status that may have occurred since classification.

Consideration should be given, the memorandum stated, to such factors as the length of time which the student has been pursuing the course in question, his relative progress and standing in the course, and his relative chances for employment. Contracts of employment or other reasonable assurance that the registrant will engage in an essential activity may be considered as evidence by the local board.

"The intelligent selection or deferment of registrants, as the national interest may require, is the fundamental purpose of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 and the Regulations prescribed thereunder," Gen. Hershey's memorandum declared.

"It is clearly the duty and responsibility of the local board to determine the classification of each registrant."

Although deferment in Class II-A may not exceed six months, the deferment may be renewed from time to time if the local board finds that such continuance is justified.

Another step to guard against loss to the nation of the services of qualified professional men was taken by Gen. Hershey in another memorandum to state directors in which he stated that professional students who have completed their course of instructions on July 1, 1941, but who will then be in training or preparation for examinations for license in their professional field, may be deferred for a relatively short period pending the holding of the examination.

Science News Letter, March 22, 1941



FOR CONTROL

This is the way the crystal section looks after it is ground and ready for use in controlling the frequency of a transmitting station.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Draft Boards Urged to Give Consideration to Students

DRAFT boards are urged to give special consideration to deferment of graduate students in scientific, technological and educational schools and students in engineering and health services, in a resolution just passed by the New York Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers.

After July 1, the group deferment of students expires, and local draft boards must consider the continued deferment of each student individually on its own merits. A student in these nationally important fields is put into the deferred classification if the local board finds him a "necessary man."

The Scientific Workers urge local

boards to take advantage of information that might be furnished by the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel and to judge the usefulness of such a student by standards provided in a report made at the request of Dr. C. A. Dykstra, director of the Selective Service System, by the National Academy of Sciences and the Subcommittee on Military Affairs of the National Committee on Education and Defense.

According to this report, defense needs clearly require careful consideration of requests for deferment for students in the following fields:

Medicine, dentistry and pharmacy.