

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

EUGENE

Secretary of the Faculty

March 14, 1968

Faculty Meeting

President Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Johnson:

We the Faculty of the University of Oregon, strongly object to General Hershey's letter of October 26, 1967, which recommends that any violators of "the Military Selective Service Act or the Regulations, or the related processes...should be denied deferment in the National interest." First, we believe that any government action against individuals for alleged violation should be to prosecute in accordance with the regular criminal processes and not to induct into the armed forces. Secondly, by allowing local boards to decide what constitutes 'violations' of such vague concepts as 'related processes,' we believe that General Hershey's letter permits the draft to be used as a punishment for those students and young faculty members whose opinions may run contrary to those of members of Selective Service boards.

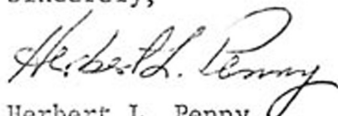
We are appreciative of several efforts "to set the record straight": of the joint statement on December 9, 1967, by General Hershey and Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and of the letter by your special assistant, Mr. Joseph A. Califano, Jr., of December 26, 1967, which has, as we understand, been sent to the Selective Service boards throughout the country. But despite the issuance of the statement on December 9, a Selective Service spokesman during the week of December 11, said that "The General has made no deviation from his October 26 letter" (Higher Education and National Affairs, XVI, No. 40,2); and despite the statement in the Clark-Hershey memorandum that "The lawful exercise of rights and free expression and peaceful assembly have incurred and will incur no penalty or other adverse action," we understand that such penalty has been incurred in at least one case, where a student at the University of Oklahoma lost his II-S deferment because his local board did not feel his "activity as a member of Students for a Democratic Society is to the best interests of the U.S. Government" (Academe, Newsletter of the AAUP, Vol 2, No. 1, Jan. 1968, 4). Nor are we much heartened by Mr. Califano's statement that "General Hershey has informed me that he adheres to these views" (one of "these views" being "the cardinal principle that lawful protest activities, whether directed to the draft or other national issues, do not subject registrants to acceleration..."). The fact remains that General Hershey has not seen fit to issue another letter to the Selective Service boards rescinding his statement of October 26, 1967. And until he does so, members of such boards may well feel they have an option of two standards by which to act.

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We therefore respectfully urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to direct General Hershey to rescind his letter of October 26 by means of a further letter to Selective Service boards.

Sincerely,



Herbert L. Penny
Acting Secretary of the Faculty



Arthur S. Flemming
President and Chairman of
the Faculty