

OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF MATHEMATICIANS

General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service, has issued Occupational Bulletin No. 23 which certifies that the educational services of instructors and professors of mathematics in colleges, universities, or professional schools are activities essential to the war effort. This Bulletin supplements Occupational Bulletin No. 10 which was distributed to department chairmen by the Secretary's office on June 30, 1942. Bulletin No. 10 and Bulletin No. 23 are given at the end of this note.

This memorandum is published with the realization that the whole situation with respect to our colleges and universities will undoubtedly be fundamentally altered by the legislation concerned with the lowering of the draft age. Nevertheless, we do believe that plans will be developed whereby the government will use the machinery already existing in our colleges and universities in order to train young men in the mathematics and science which are the necessary equipment of Army and Navy officers. The need for instructors in mathematics is bound to increase as the tempo of the war is increased.

The Secretary of War has stated that teachers in fields that are essential to the war effort are doing the job that the country wants them to do and are performing their full duty in the war effort. With this in mind, every effort should be made to conserve the supply of mathematicians; this supply is already greatly depleted. Mathematicians should not be discouraged from assuming positions in fields other than teaching, if these offer greater opportunities for service to the nation in the war effort. On the other hand, mathematics teachers should not feel that their services will shortly be unnecessary and consequently rush into positions where their contribution is less vital than that of teaching men who are preparing for commissions in the armed forces. Mathematics at the college level will have to be taught to prospective officers. We hope that this teaching will be done in our colleges and universities. Whether it is done there or in schools set up by the government, mathematicians will be needed and the supply should be conserved.

I. REQUESTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

In view of the recent Bulletin, we wish to offer the following suggestions for securing the proper classification of mathematicians:

(a) *For those who have completed their training, i.e., instructors and men of professorial grade.* Requests for continued occupational de-