

MCP
1/3/69

ALL-VOLUNTEER ARMED FORCE

One of the strongest pledges in the campaign was the eventual abolition of the draft. It is the major issue that you can use to establish a rapport with the youth of the country. There is, of course, substantial opposition to such a move largely on the grounds that it may engender national security. Thus its important that while you take significant steps toward abolishing the draft, you do it so that the national security is not compromised.

This can be assured moving towards an all volunteer army in gradual steps, evaluating each, before moving forward to the next.

It is recommended that you take the following initial actions:

- (1) In your Inaugural address, reaffirm strongly your pledge to end the draft as soon as possible.
- (2) Increase the planned July 1, 1969 military pay raise of \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion, concentrating the additional \$1.0 billion in the lowest enlisted ranks where the military-civilian pay discrepancy is greatest. This should induce a rise, in enlistments and allow draft calls to be reduced.
- (3) Appoint a special Presidential Commission charged with the task of developing a detailed plan of action for ending the draft.

Their task would be to evaluate the various cost estimates required to replace the draft with an all volunteer army. They

should be prepared to report on the impact on enlistments of higher military pay scales of fiscal year 1970, and recommend another pay scale change for July 1, 1970. If the evidence indicates that enlistments are highly sensitive to increased pay scales the move towards eliminating the draft can be accelerated at limited cost. If the evaluation indicates that very large costs are involved budgetary restraints would require a more limited pace of implementation.