

**REPORT OF THE WAR PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF
THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY AND
MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
AT THE CHICAGO MEETING**

This report is concerned with three important questions: (1) The deferment of mathematicians; (2) Report of Subcommittee on Education for Service; (3) Use of Selectees.

1. THE DEFERMENT OF MATHEMATICIANS

When this problem arose for the first time over a year ago the great majority of mathematicians were against seeking any special consideration of mathematicians in connection with the Selective Service. It is the feeling of many that the situation has now changed to such an extent that steps should now be taken leading to the "individual occupational deferment" of mathematicians.

We are concerned in the first place with teachers of mathematics in the colleges and universities, with advanced students of mathematics, and with mathematicians in industry. Mathematicians in the industries essential for the defense are fairly well taken care of in accordance with recommendations to the Selective Service Boards by their employers. But teachers of mathematics are variously treated by the Selective Service Boards. Some men are deferred because they are teaching mathematics to engineers, but this rule is not general. A state Selective Service official to whom the case of a mathematician was appealed, stated that the national authorities had certified no shortage of mathematicians.

Because of the Selective Service law each man must be treated on his own merits in accordance with the principles of "individual occupational deferment." It became apparent on consultation with Dr. Zook of the American Council on Education and others that the opinions of mathematicians must be given statistical support. A subcommittee of the War Preparedness Committee on the Supply and Demand for Mathematicians was accordingly appointed in June as follows: Professors T. Y. Thomas (chairman), Harry Bateman, E. T. Bell, G. C. Evans, and W. M. Whyburn. This committee has begun its investigations. It has sent a questionnaire to the heads of departments of mathematics. The committee is concerned with the number, relative quality, induction, and employment of mathematicians of the Selective Service age. It will give special attention to the needs of engineering schools and industry.