

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PHYSICISTS AND MATHEMATICIANS

Recent action by the National Headquarters of the Selective Service System recognizes a critical shortage in the field of mathematics and sets up a new procedure whereby a national point of view may be brought to bear on the decisions of local boards in the cases of registrants who are occupied as mathematicians or are students of mathematics. This recent action of National Headquarters is best understood by reference to the historical background.

On November 7, 1942, National Headquarters announced a policy under which the Director of Selective Service might authorize the appointment of a National Committee in a critical scientific or specialized field, to assist the Selective Service System by reviewing affidavits for occupational classification; at the same time the National Committee on Physicists was established. On April 5, 1943, this policy was amended so as to apply to mathematicians as well as to physicists; *the National Committee on Physicists was replaced by the National Committee on Physicists and Mathematicians*. In addition to the two physicists who, with representatives of the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel and of the public, constituted the earlier Committee, the new National Committee on Physicists and Mathematicians will include two mathematicians.

This procedure involves no change in the fundamental principles underlying the granting of occupational deferment, which remains, in the first instance, a matter for the decision of each registrant's local board. The creation of the National Committee on Physicists and Mathematicians does, however, provide a means whereby the individual local boards will be advised concerning the national as well as the local needs in the critical fields of both physics and mathematics.

In Memorandum F (see Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, March, 1943) attention was called to amendments made on December 14, 1942, to Occupational Bulletins No. 10 and No. 23. *The amended Bulletins remain in force and should be consulted in preparing requests for occupational classification of teachers or students of mathematics.*<sup>1</sup>

Mathematicians should note the changes in procedure made necessary by the establishment of the National Committee on Physicists

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<sup>1</sup> The substance of the amended Bulletins No. 10 and No. 23 is to be found also in Activity and Occupation Bulletins No. 33-5 and No. 33-6, issued on March 1, 1943.