

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-

ferment or for reclassification should be based on Occupational Bulletin No. 23 in which the Manpower Commission has certified as essential to the war effort professors and instructors engaged in full-time instruction and research in mathematics. This Bulletin should be attached to every request. In addition, Occupational Bulletin No. 10, which certifies that there is a serious shortage of mathematicians, should be attached. Local boards must be supplied with all the necessary information; this should include evidence that the registrant cannot be replaced. The request for reclassification should be made on Form 42A which can be obtained from the registrant's local board.

(b) *For those in training, i.e., graduate assistants and undergraduate majors in mathematics.* The officer requesting the deferment should file Form 42A directly with the local board with the ordinary questionnaire filled out by all registrants. Reference should be made to Occupational Bulletin No. 10. It is urged that a copy of this Bulletin be attached to Form 42A when it is filed.

II. APPEALS

Having made request for occupational deferment, the person making the request should be prepared to exert every effort to secure that deferment, including the making of an appeal. The appeal may be made by the registrant, his employer, or the government appeal agent. When it is clear that the end of negotiations with the local board has been reached, without having modified the registrant's 1A classification, the appeal should be carried through. *Such an appeal must be made within ten days of the date when the local board mailed to the registrant a notice of his classification.* The form for appeals appears at the end of the questionnaire.

III. ADDITIONAL STEPS

*National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel,
10th and U Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

Any mathematician who has not already done so should register immediately with the National Roster. This may be done by writing a letter to the Roster at the above address, and asking for appropriate forms in mathematics. In this communication, the writer should indicate whether he is subject to the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940.

The National Roster may take appropriate action in the case of professional mathematicians and graduate students in mathematics.

Under a cooperative plan with the Selective Service System, the Roster may send to the National Headquarters of the Selective Service System appropriate information about professionally trained men of military age, and that office in turn may then forward letters about these men through the various State Directors to the individual local boards, in order to assist in proper classification.

It is essential that a man (or his employing institution) should *not* wait until he is placed in Class 1A before writing to the Roster. The Roster should be kept informed as to any changes in his Selective Service status or in his employment. In communicating with the Roster, a man should give the following information: (1) the name, number, and address of his Selective Service local board; (2) his own order number; (3) a description of his specific duties, especially as related to the war effort.

*Office of Scientific Personnel, National Research Council,
2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.*

Dean Homer L. Dodge is now Director of the Office of Scientific Personnel. In cases where an appeal has been made and developments indicate that a proper decision may not be reached, it is advisable to contact Dean Dodge. He must be informed as to the applicant's order number and the name, number, and address of the local board under which he is registered. Dean Dodge has offered to consult with the State Director concerned or with Selective Service Headquarters as the urgency of the case demands.

However, the Office of Scientific Personnel must start where the person making the original request leaves off and can do little to make up for deficiencies in the presentation of the case by the employer. Unless there is presented evidence that a genuine, but unsuccessful, attempt has been made to secure a replacement for the particular registrant in question, it will be impossible for the Office of Scientific Personnel to be of assistance.

Copies of Occupational Bulletin No. 10 and of Occupational Bulletin No. 23 will be furnished, on request, by the office of the Secretary.

MARSTON MORSE, *President*
J. R. KLINE, *Secretary*

November 2, 1942.