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tion when such classification seems not to be in accord with policy and procedure.

The commission also believes that many highly trained individuals can serve more effectively in a civilian status than in uniform. It does not advocate the blanket deferment of all students, or of all scientists and engineers without regard to their individual effectiveness in their roles.

Langer speaks of a "somewhat unwitting alliance between the student protestors . . . and the manpower specialists." She says that both groups "have a concept of what amounts to an extended definition of 'alternative service'." What she neglects to stress is that the SMC is concerned with maintaining the supply of highly trained manpower essential to the nation in both war and peace. This is basic in the SMC's policy, whereas it is a matter of no concern to the "student activists."

Langer says, "The activist students and the Scientific Manpower Commission have another thing in common, and that is their methods." The leadership of Students for a Democratic Society, she then reports, proposed an "overt antidraft campaign" which was vetoed by the members, with the result that "the majority of students will continue trying to avoid the draft by methods that run from simply staying in school, to developing asthma, to hinting darkly about suicidal or homosexual tendencies." Some readers have taken this listing to represent the methods that the student activists and the SMC have "in common." It needs to be made perfectly clear, therefore, that the SMC has never proposed any antidraft campaign, overt or otherwise, and does not approve draft dodging in any form.

Draft dodgers, like citizens who fail to pay their taxes, are asking for the rights of citizenship without assuming its concomitant responsibilities. SMC does advocate a fully informed citizenry; a selective (rather than a lottery) process of choosing men to serve in the armed forces when all males are not needed within specified age groups; and those policies of the Selective Service which recognize that without the consistent addition of highly trained manpower to an army of skilled professionals already at work, the nation's army in uniform cannot function effectively.

Local boards and appeal boards of the Selective Service system must make the final decision regarding how each

individual registrant should be asked to serve, but they should not be forced to make this decision with incomplete information; nor should individual registrants be refused opportunity to request further consideration of the action of their local boards when they believe their classification does not implement this policy.

Appeal boards and state advisory boards for scientists, engineers, and other technical personnel have been set up to provide registrants, universities, and employers with an opportunity to appeal a classification. If this machinery is to be effective, every citizen should understand the reason behind the deferment policies; and every registrant should be aware both of his obligations and his rights.

BETTY M. VETTER

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Junior Astronomy Club

The Schools Lectures at the Royal Institution described by Lawrence Bragg (10 Dec. 1965, p. 1420) are similar in a general way to many excellent out-of-school science activities now well established in the United States, such as the programs for young people at the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Museum of Natural History, Columbia University, and the Franklin Institute, to mention only a few.

For 36 years the Junior Astronomy Club, currently at New York University, has sponsored a monthly lecture series during the academic year, with outstanding speakers from the fields of astronomy, physics, and space sciences. Tickets are distributed to junior high schools in New York City, and admission is free to the general public. The free lecture series is only a part of the club's program, which includes Saturday classes in astronomy, observing sessions, publication of the *Junior Astronomy News*, and field trips throughout the academic year.

The one unique feature of our club is that its entire program is conceived, organized, and carried out by the members (ages 12 to 20) without adult direction.

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