

Behind the ROTC Question

Top ROTC Officers Decline Comment on Compulsory Plan

By DICK DRAYNE
Sixth of a Series

The three top officers in the University's ROTC program, remaining aloof from the controversy over compulsory military training, feel their taking sides in the argument would not be in keeping with their military positions and have refused direct comment on the issue.

The officers in command of the three campus ROTC branches, queried in separate interviews, all maintain they would support the University in any decision concerning them but declined comment on the actual advisability of the compulsory plan.

All three officers issued prepared statements.

Col. Arthur W. Kogstad, professor of military science and tactics and head of the Army ROTC, referred to a statement by Charles W. Wilson, former secretary of defense, which says "the Department of Defense and the nation as a whole do derive distinct benefits from requiring the young college student to enroll in ROTC. Without doubt, completion of the basic ROTC course improves the citizenship of our training of our college students and enhances their overall contribution to the security of the nation."

Kogstad maintained, however, that this was merely an opinion on the subject and that the final decision on the advisability of compulsory military training should rest with the state and the University.

"There is no question," he added, "that officers commissioned from Penn State have done well in the Army. This is a matter of record—one in which the University takes great pride."

Capt. J. P. Roach, professor of naval science and head of Naval ROTC, said that because the University's naval program is voluntary, it is not involved in the question of compulsory training.

Roach, however, gave the personal comment that "ROTC training is of considerable value to the individual and to the nation in creating better informed citizens

and producing junior officers for the military services."

"My own son is participating in a compulsory ROTC program at another University," Roach said, "and I am happy that he is receiving that training."

Col. O. H. Rigley, professor of air science and head of Air Force ROTC, defended the ROTC program in saying "the limited exposure to military concepts that we in the ROTC give basic students will neither stunt their academic growth nor 'brain wash' them."

"On the contrary," Rigley said, "the exposure to the military should broaden their base of understanding as they accept future citizenship responsibilities."

Rigley termed the Air Force program at the University "a huge success," and said that "as long as the University requires ROTC . . . we in the AFROTC will provide the facilities and make the exposure as interesting as possible."

The three ROTC officers all refused comment on the Senate subcommittee's recommendation of Nov. 7 that the University create a civil defense program for coeds, saying that it did not concern them or their departments.

The officers also declined to comment on the place of ROTC in the University's organization beyond saying they will support whatever decision the administration may hand down.

The Senate subcommittee's report recommended putting ROTC in the College of the Liberal Arts.


Roach said he believes "the present organization is working exceedingly well," but added that the problem of organization within the University is "for the University administration to determine."

Pollock to Talk At IFC Confab

O. Edward Pollock, assistant to the dean of men, will explain the University's Greek Week program in an address on "Public Relations" at National Interfraternity Conference meetings to be held Thursday through Sunday in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

James Hart, Interfraternity Council president, will attend the meetings with Pollock.

The series of meetings will include both the graduate and undergraduate sections of the NIC. Pollock is a member of the undergraduate relations committee of the conference.



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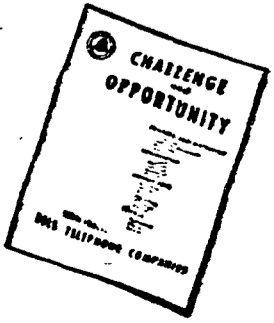
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