

cally fit population during the last twenty years. They have fumbled the ball!

The young men that are coming into the army are way below standard physically.

I make these charges on the basis of objective evidence and a considerable amount of observation.

First, my observation is one of comparison--comparison with the physical condition developed by our enemies. It was my privilege to be in Germany during 1938. The physiques, the vigor, and the general appearance of physical fitness of all German youths was amazing. I'm not referring to the athletes, but to all the young men we saw throughout Germany, both in uniform and out of uniform.

Hitler, in Mein Kampf, emphasized the absolute importance of building a physically strong, rugged youth as a foundation for a strong state. He accomplished this objective. The contrast of the general run of our school youth with those of Germany is distressing, to say the least.

Second, I have seen thousands of recruits in Air Force recruit camps during the last nine months. The general physical condition, the muscular development and the performance ability of these young men is nothing that we, in physical education, can be proud of. Before we discuss this matter of physical fitness, or physical condition, any further, let's determine what we mean by the term, "physical fitness."

You have read many statements, pro and con, during the last few months about the draft results, the number of rejections, and the physical fitness of our American youth. That term physical fitness needs clarification. It seems to me that there has been a great deal of foggy thinking by both physical educators and laymen (1) in interpreting the draft rejections (for physical disabilities), (2) in understanding what may be meant by the term "physical fitness", and (3) in what physical education may do to improve what kind of physical fitness.

Physical education received a great boost as a result of the draft in 1917-